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Martlet

SANTA SAYS

cover by christina harris

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Will government compensate for the sixth freeze?

by Ben Isitt

Tuition fees in B.C. have been frozen at $2280 per year for the sixth year in a row.

Premier Ujjal Dosanjh made the announcement Oct. 24 to a crowd of roughly 150 students assembled in the Student Union Building's Cinecenta theatre. He was on campus to kick off a three-part education forum sponsored by the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS).

"The sixth year of the freeze will help maintain affordable education," Dosanjh said. After his announcement, the Premier met with UVic president Dr. David Turpin and assured him that the university "would be fully compensated."

But some students are saying that the tuition freeze, while important and appreciated, is no longer enough.

"There needs to be no tuition," said Jessica Asch, a fourth-year political science student. "Education needs to be free... Education is a right."

Asch describes herself as a "political refugee" from Ralph Klein's Alberta. "I'm running away from high tuition," she said.

In his speech to students, Premier Dosanjh cited figures for tuition in various provinces. Asch's native Alberta now charges $3841 per year, while Mike Harris' Ontario has set the bar at $3971, and has even deregulated tuition entirely in certain professional programs.

"We chose a different path in British Columbia," Dosanjh said.

Anita Zaenker, chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students' B.C. component, spoke on a panel with Dosanjh and provincial advanced education minister, Graehme Bowbrick. She said that some provinces let fees rise in order to deal with a $7 billion cut in education transfer payments from the federal Liberal government.

"Provinces should not be forced to off-load funding cuts onto the backs and into the pockets of students," Zaenker said. "Access to education begins with eliminating financial barriers."

At UVic, tuition fees accounted for $35.7 million out of a total operating budget of $161 million in the 1999-2000 fiscal year. To put this figure in perspective, the federal Liberal government announced over $100 billion in tax cuts on Oct. 18.

Dr. Turpin, UVic's new president, doesn't mince words.

"Government funding is the only thing limiting a tuition decrease in this province," he said.

Numerous students pressed this point during a question and answer period following Dosanjh's announcement.

"I have wondered out loud about this question several times in recent months," the Premier said. "I'm committed to the idea that if we can afford it, when we can afford it, we should start the reduction of tuition fees."

After the public meeting, advanced education minister Graeme Bowbrick said a fee reduction is something both he and the premier would like to do, but adds they are committed to fiscal responsibility.

"The Premier made it clear," Bowbrick said. "The economy is improving. With an improved economy comes more money. With more money comes more options, including the option of a reduction in fees."

"Ideologically, you know where we are," Bowbrick said, referring to NDP party policy supporting free university education.

But talk and ideological commitment are one thing, and action is another. The NDP's mandate runs out in June, and many believe the next provincial election will see BC Liberal leader Gordon Campbell elected Premier.

A 1998 policy resolution on tuition fees says the BC Liberal party "is opposed to raising tuition rates and ancillary fees for students at post-secondary institutions above the rate of inflation," suggesting that the freeze would be abandoned.

"If they win, after the election, you cannot have $1 billion in tax cuts for the wealthy, for the privileged and the powerful, and keep the tuition freeze on," Bowbrick said.

Despite repeated attempts by *the Martlet*, neither Campbell nor a B.C. Liberal spokesperson was available for comment.

Some have argued that the tuition freeze has hurt the quality of education in BC. Three news stories on BCTV in the second week of October approached the issue from this angle. TV crews roamed the UVic campus in the wake of the Premier's announcement interviewing students in search of this story, but according to witnesses, they had little success.

"The issue is not the freeze," Dr. Turpin insists. "Our view is the same as the students' on this. Government funding for university education is the issue."

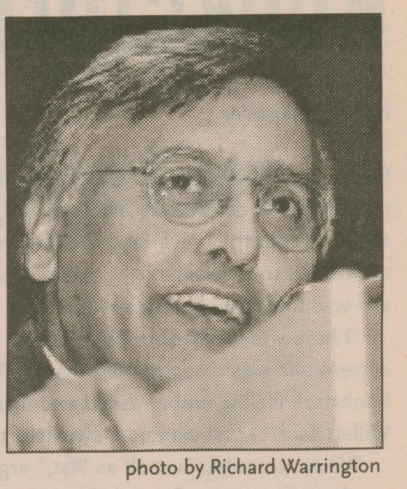

photo by Richard Warrington

Premier Dosanjh speaks in SUB.

Summer McFadyen, chairperson of the UVSS, said she supports the freeze but would like to see the province go further.

"I was hoping for some discussion on the reduction and elimination of fees," she said. "Many students at the forum asked the Premier to commit to reducing and eliminating tuition fees, following the model of many European countries."

The majority of countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) – the leading industrial nations in the world – do not charge user fees for post-secondary education. In 1996, Ireland abolished tuition.

Pride parades threatened in B.C.

by Miguel R. MacDonald

The largest meeting of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) was met with protest this week as the group tabled a potentially explosive proposal to allow municipalities to reject all proclamations.

The idea is a tricky dance of semantics proposed by the mayor of Oliver, B.C., a small town in the Southern Okanagan. The town council wants to avoid being blamed for shutting down Gay Pride activities, say local protesters.

About thirty protesters representing the Victoria Labour Council, the Green Party of Canada, and a network of Gay Pride organizations, stood outside the Victoria Conference centre where over 1600 delegates from throughout the province came together for the largest UBCM meeting in its 97-year history.

But while the gathering does represent a landmark meeting of municipal government in B.C., the proclamation proposal is being called an infringement of human rights.

"The way the resolution is worded is so backwards," said Gayle Nye of the B.C. Government Employees Union (BCGEU). "It doesn't seem offensive."

The resolution aims to ammend the B.C. Human Rights Act to "exclude proclamations from being considered a 'service or facility' under the code." So what does this mean?

If this resolution were passed it would keep the mayors and councils of all communities in the province from being dragged into court on human rights violations for not declaring days like Gay Pride Day. Currently the Local Government Act and the Human Rights Code are "silent on the nature and legal status of proclamations," reads the controversial resolution.

For Nye, the resolution hints at the erosion of human rights in the province.

"It's a slap," she said. "We've got to stand together."

"In a number of cases large organizations have challenged decisions not to declare Gay Pride days," said Marnie Mayhew, executive assistant to Victoria Mayor Alan Lowe. "Their argument is that it is discrimination under the Charter. This resolution has come out of the debate of those situations."

At present it is considered discrimination for the mayor of a municipality to fail to proclaim Gay Pride Week under the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.

"The question then becomes: Does the council have the right to refuse proclamations, period, to anyone?" said Mayhew.

Mayor Alan Lowe said the resolution would not affect Victoria.

"In Victoria I don't think it will affect us at all," Lowe said. "I think it's more some municipalities in the Interior."

Lowe also said that Victoria provides a proclamation allowing for a Gay Pride Day and Pride Parade. "We do provide it as a service," Lowe said.

If it were passed, the resolution would alter the BC Human Rights Act and allow the mayor and council of any municipality in the province the option to grant proclamations or not, without repraisal under the B.C. Human Rights Act. The reason for this is some councils have had their decisions not to hold Gay Pride days challenged by large organizations, landing councils in front of Human Rights tribunals.

"This is right-wing backlash," said Judy Lightwater, one of the activists who stood on the steps of the Victoria Conference Centre as delegates filed in and out of the building. "It's very important that people know that they are discrimminating against gays and lesbians in their towns. Gay pride is a way for people to be safe and proud to be gay."

Independent photographer Tathra Street, orginally from Vernon, said she did not even know she was gay until she left her home town. "I know it's not safe to be openly gay there." Andrea Smith of the UVic Pride collective said that even growing up as a lesbian in the suburb of New Delta was "brutal."

"It just shows how important it is to have a Pride Parade."

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Bookstore falls short on plus sizes

by Leigh Cormier

Stephanie Willett came to UVic because of its reputation for celebrating diversity. But when she went into the university's bookstore last month to buy a sweatshirt with the school logo, she was told they didn't carry her size.

"I have worked hard to build up my self-esteem and was disappointed that I left the bookstore feeling embarrassed and dejected," Willett said. "I just wanted a sweatshirt."

Willett describes herself as "fat," arguing the word needs to be reclaimed in much the same way gays and lesbians have reclaimed "queer." She came to UVic this September to begin a second degree in child and youth care after completing a bachelor's degree in psychology at the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George.

"I selected UVic because of its reputation for celebrating and supporting diversity, a place where people are respected for their differences," Willett said. "And with campus groups supporting gay rights, women's rights and students with disabilities, I expected the university to be very inclusive and community oriented."

Indeed, it is UVic policy to provide, "an environment that affirms and promotes the dignity of human beings of diverse backgrounds and needs."

Willett's experience at the Bookstore has changed her impression of the institution. While staff eventually helped her find an XXXL men's sweater, it was not a good fit.

"I understand the need to provide for a broad range of sizes and I have asked our manufacturers if they produce plus-sizes and tall-sizes, and they don't," said clothing manager Linda Maasch who does most of the buying at the bookstore.

Six manufacturers supply the store – Dubwear, Bruzer, Second Skin, Summit Clothing, Sportstraders and Russell – but with the exception of Russell, none carry tall or plus sizes.

"I understand [Willett's] position as I have a son who is 6' 4" who can't find clothes anywhere," Maasch said. She adds that she is willing to contact known plus-size companies such as Cotton Ginny or Addition Elle to inquire about the possibility of their producing UVic clothing.

This would be welcomed by Susan Shaw, discrimination officer at the UVic Prevention of Discrimination and Harassment Office. Shaw emphasizes the need for the university Bookstore to "have clothing available that is suitable for the diversity of UVic students."

She adds that "fat" students are not recognized under provincial human rights legislation.

"While this does not classify as discrimination per se because size and height are not human rights categories, it is poor practice for a university clothing store to not cater to the broad range of students," Shaw said.

As far as Stephanie Willett is concerned, the Bookstore represents just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to discrimination against fat people. From small desks and narrow doorways in classrooms, to tight showers in cluster housing, to snickers and jokes in the hallways, she wants to be accepted by her peers.

"Obesity is a part of who I am," Willett explains, "It is as much a part of my identity as my cultural background. It has helped make me the strong, independent, compassionate person I am today. It is time that people started breaking down the negative stigma around fatness and obesity and realized what the media's image of perfection is driving people to do – anorexia, bulimia, steroids."

She wants fellow students and the community as a whole to look beyond her size and accept her as she is.

photo by Leigh Cormier

How inclusive is the bookstore?

"Instead of looking at me and wondering if I am fat because it's a health problem or if I am just lazy, wonder what my personality and interests are," Willett said. "It is time that people start truly respecting and celebrating all types of diversity."

Ecstasy may weaken power of Pill

by Carey Rudisill

UVic student Leah Cooley has used the party drug Ecstasy, or E, for over two years. But after spending most of September ill, she wants to warn other women that mixing the drug with the birth control pill can cause sickness and possibly pregnancy.

"My girlfriends and I have been doing E for a long time at parties," Cooley said. "We've never had problems."

But in September Cooley did the drug four times, "and every single time I got really, really sick," she recounts. "The trip was really bad. I got abdominal cramps. I didn't experience the euphoria. Just a lot of pain and headaches."

Cooley said she felt the ill-effects both during and after her high.

"One time I couldn't keep any food down for four days. So you deal with a lot of nausea, puking and abdominal pain," Cooley said.

She discussed her problem with a friend, concerned about bad E on the market, perhaps cut with PCP or other chemicals.

"But then we realized that every time we went to a party, it was a lot of girls who were getting sick," she said. "Then I realized that the month of September – when I got really sick – was when I started taking birth control. I just linked the two together."

Cooley says she tested her theory. If she saw a girl in the bar or at a party who appeared to be in pain, she asked her whether she was on the pill.

"The majority of responses was 'yes,'" Cooley said. And many of these women were taking the low-dosage variety: triphasil, priquilar or tricyclene.

Dr. William Dyson, who works with UVic Health Services, warns women not to use ecstasy when taking birth control pills. He says he has seen four individuals in his office since September with complaints of week-long stomach cramps caused by recent use of the drug.

"A lot of people seem to be using Ecstasy," Dr. Dyson said. "A lot of people seem to be using birth control. I think it needs to be said over and over that when using untested drugs or street drugs you don't know the side effects. People using ecstasy are taking part in a large experiment."

Ecstasy is the an amphetaminderivate that comes in the form of chemicals MDMA, MDA, MDE, MBDB, or DOB. It produces a relaxed, euphoric state by enhancing the senses. The drug is taken in tablet or capsule form containing 100 to 125 milligrams. According to information about ecstasy posted at www.dancesafe.org, "there is no evidence to suggest that illegal drugs interfere with the Pill, although it is not known how contaminants used to cut drugs may affect the Pill." The same site states that taking E can affect a woman's period, making it heavier, lighter or causing it to become irregular. In some cases women's periods stop altogether, says Dance Safe.

> When using untested drugs or street drugs you don't know the side effects. People using ecstasy are taking part in a large experiment.
>
> *Dr. William Dyson, UVic Health Services*

Dr. Dyson says if a woman encounters abdominal pain after taking ecstasy she may also have problems with the effectiveness of her birth control pills.

"The abdominal pain is associated with constipation which shows it's affecting the digestive system," he says. "You can picture what would happen. With the abdominal pain the pill would sit in your stomach and not go to where it needs to be."

Dr. Dyson thinks the health community needs to "put this message out in many mediums," adding the media needs to present this message continually.

"This year we have a new group of students from high school. It's the responsibility of all of us to get this message out," Dr. Dyson explains.

Leah Cooley intends to do her part to inform other women and spare them the pain she has suffered. She has posted messages on Internet rave sites including the women's health site at www.dancesafe.org and the local www.rave.victoria.bc.ca.

"I had a lot of girls respond with their information," Cooley said.

She is trying to establish links with Islandkidz, a group that sets up information tables at raves on the safe usage of drugs. She has also approached the UVic Women's Centre about producing a pamphlet and organizing a discussion addressing the issue of Ecstasy and the Pill.

Will Cooley stop doing E?

"No. I've decided to stop while I'm on the pill. And I've decided that if I'm going to do E again, I'm going to go off the pill for a month, because if you take the pill with E there is a higher possibility of pregnancy."

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Local First Nations campaign for radio station

by Kris Elder

photo by Richard Warrington

William George at the microphone in CFUV

Every Friday afternoon, UVic student and poet William George hosts the CFUV radio show, "Unreserved: aboriginal programming." If the efforts of aboriginal activists across the country are successful, Canada may soon play host to a national aboriginal radio network.

"There's all these stereotypes and images that continue to get perpetuated through media," George said.

"I think mainstream media is lacking in aboriginal perspective, the voice of aboriginal people. It's important to have another form, another station. The national aboriginal station is necessary."

Along with his weekly radio show, George serves as firekeeper of UVic's Native Student Union. He has been collecting names on a petition and has written a letter to the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) voicing his support for the new network.

Building on a CRTC licensing victory for Aboriginal Voices Radio Network (AVRN) FM 106.5 in Toronto, hearings will take place in Calgary this month and in Vancouver in November for an AVR repeater station in these cities. Local campaigners hope that the CRTC will approve the license to operate a network to distribute aboriginal programming across the country.

Bob Kennedy, a member of the Oneida Nation who says he is honoured to be living and working on Coast Salish territory, is one of the founding members of the board of directors for the AVRN.

Kennedy is also the publisher and editor of the on-line news co-op the Turtle Island Native Network. Kennedy says that there is a need for AVRN because the majority of aboriginal people in this country live in the south and in urban centres, but do not receive adequate broadcast services that are culturally appropriate.

"Mainstream media portray aboriginal peoples with stereotypical perspectives. We intend to provide our own, unfiltered perspectives on our diverse cultures, and the issues we are addressing to help the many people living lives of quiet desperation in Canada's urban centres," says Kennedy.

AVRN will offer a diversified programming schedule that will include a variety of music, open-line programs, round table discussions, world music, spirituality and teachings, language and cultural lessons as well as news programs from an aboriginal perspective.

"In the beginning we will be producing national programming and distributing it to local repeaters, but local content will be added as our budgets grow and as we get approvals," says Kennedy.

He applauds the efforts of William George in advancing the cause of AVRN, adding the network has enjoyed huge support from UVic students.

George is confident that the CRTC will approve licenses for the aboriginal network. But he cautions that change won't happen overnight.

"Getting the license is one part, but implementation is an ongoing process," George said. "It will take a while to get to a point where they can fully represent the aboriginal voices across the country."

In the future, AVRN hopes to expand into Victoria, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, London, Ottawa, Montréal, Quebec City, and Halifax.

Kennedy believes that the AVR Network will help improve communications among Aboriginal peoples in this country, and also help educate Canadians and build bridges between us all.

"Our voices will be heard. Urban aboriginals have a noticeably different lifestyle than their Rez (reservation) cousins. Bringing the two together through voices and sounds will be one of the delightful pleasures promised by AVRN," Kennedy says.

"We'll provide services that will educate, inform and entertain, and help our circle and communities grow stronger."

He points out the success of the Aboriginal Peoples' Television Network (APTN), which was founded in the past year, and thinks radio will enhance First Nations' media presence across the country.

"I'm partial to the benefits of radio because of its immediacy and availability," says Kennedy.

The Canadian Broadcast Act states that radio must reflect in its programming and employment opportunities the "special place of aboriginal peoples." Kennedy says that AVRN will help to ensure that this becomes a reality in Canada.

He says the CBC has not lived up to its mandate to serve the interests of all Canadians, and that years ago it had more native programming than it does now. "More aboriginal faces and voices as part of CBC programming would have been in the corporation's best interests. The APTN and AVRN will keep them scrambling to play catch up," says Kennedy.

AVRN will be a not-for-profit operation, initially funded through a partnership with NewCap Broadcasting, part of the Newfoundland Capital Corporation. "It is a unique and creative funding solution to help kick-start our radio network," Kennedy says.

The AVRN is also fund-raising in search of matching funds over the long term.

For more information or to get petitions and letters of support for the AVRN, check out www.crtc.gc.ca, www.turtleisland.org, or www.aboriginalvoices.com/radio.phtml.

Privacy expert urges Internet ethics

by Simon Glezos

Canadian university scholars should create ethical policy on Internet privacy says UVic expert Dr. Colin Bennett. Just by surfing the web you could be giving countless companies the opportunity to collect information about yourself, without ever knowing it.

"It is absolutely clear that there is enormous consumer concern about Internet privacy issues," said Bennett, citing recent polls showing that 84 per cent of Internet users are concerned about their privacy being violated online.

Bennett pointed to breaches of privacy cases, like the one involving Western Union bank's website where a hacker copied 50,000 credit and debit card numbers. However, more disturbing Bennett maintained, are corporations such as Doubleclick, an Internet advertising company that creates vast databases containing consumer information including your surfing behaviours and interests, which is then used to target advertisments and create mailing lists.

The most common manner of collecting information on the web is through the use of cookie files, a unique identifier which can be placed on your hard drive when you visit a website and then used to keep track of your surfing habits. Cookies are mainly used to keep track of what sites you visit, but can also catalogue your queries in popular search engines. Though it is possible to disable cookies using your browser, this can affect your ability to navigate certain sites.

New generations of software such as Spyware are coming up with more effective ways to compile information, in what Bennett referred to as the "arms race" in surveillance technology.

Another way of compiling information is by forcing surfers to enter registration information in order to access certain services. This information is then compiled in databases and can be sold off unless the site has made a specific commitment to privacy. Though companies often claim that the information gathered is strictly anonymous, and therefore no threat to the privacy of the user, Bennett was skeptical, pointing out that through combinations of anonymous data, one could quite easily discern the identity of a surfer. He cited a study by an American researcher which said that "87 per cent of the population of the United states could be uniquely identified using only their date of birth, their gender and their five-digit zip code."

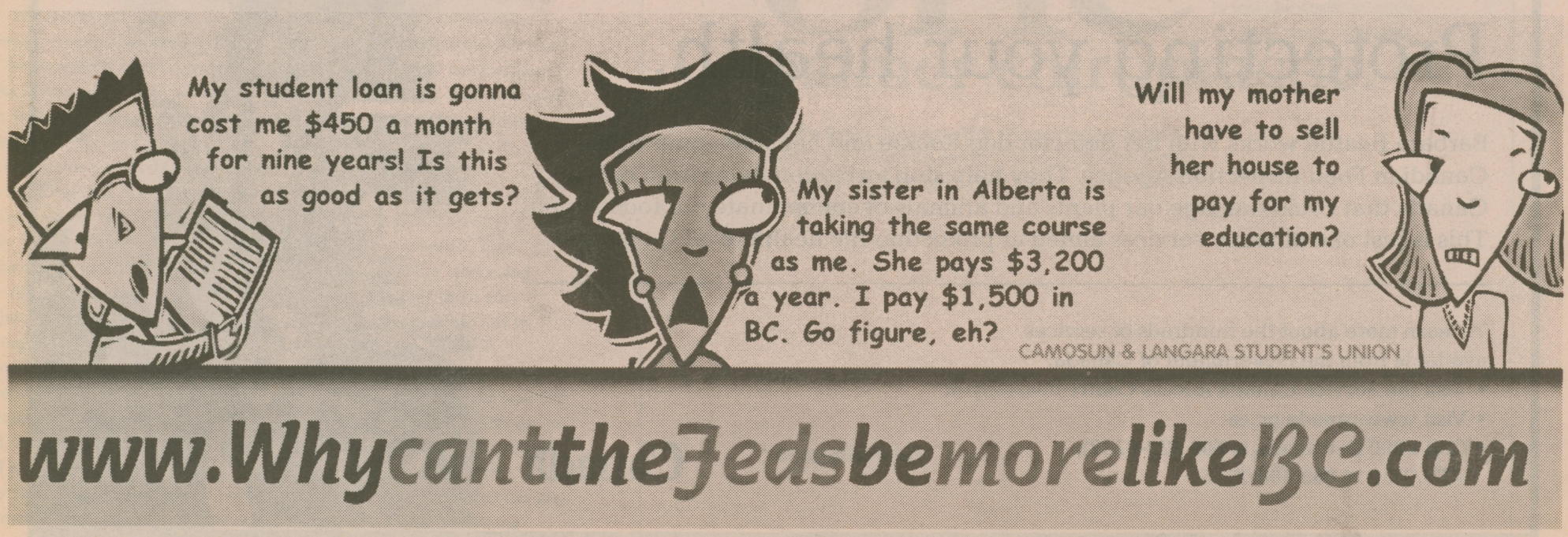
When asked what steps could be taken to defend the right to privacy, Bennett pointed to legislative efforts such as the Canada's recently passed Bill C-6, which puts strict rules on the ways in which corporations can collect and distribute customer information.

He did, however, acknowledge that relying solely on laws was not enough, stating that what was needed was a "completely different corporate mentality," through emphasis on education.

"I think that universities should do more. I think that this university should do more. I think that engineering and computer science programs should have more ethical substance," he said.

In the end Bennett was optimistic about the fight for privacy rights. "Privacy has never been higher on the agenda of industrial states. There is a new politics of privacy. There's high public concern. There's high media concern. There's a new activism at work and a new understanding of the excessive cost of surveillance." He was however adamant that we understand the reasons for undertaking these actions.

"The issue is not getting more people to make more to purchase online, it's about a human right. It's a right to be able to go about your daily life in the knowledge that your movements, choices, behaviours are not being monitored."


My student loan is gonna cost me $450 a month for nine years! Is this as good as it gets?
My sister in Alberta is taking the same course as me. She pays $3,200 a year. I pay $1,500 in BC. Go figure, eh?
Will my mother have to sell her house to pay for my education?
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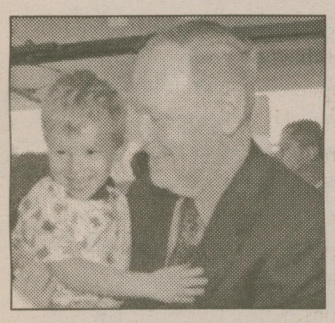
www.WhycanttheFedsbemorelikeBC.com

Federal candidates scramble for promises in light of election

Chretien sets Nov. 27 date; students encouraged to register



by Chris Westendorf

Jean Chretien's Liberals called for an early federal election Sunday Oct. 22, inviting voters to the polls November 27.

Canadian Studies expert Dr. Jeremy Wilson called the early election "sheer political opportunism," describing how their popularity shown in polls fueled the decision to cut their four-year mandate short by seven months.

Indeed, conditions have never looked better for Liberals seeking re-election. After heavy spending cuts throughout the 1990s, the Liberal government has operated with a budget surplus popular with voters. In fact, finance minister Paul Martin has recently offered a "mini-budget" to entice voters on the eve of the election. The budget contains over $100 billion in tax cuts which will take effect if the Liberals are re-elected.

"The last seven years have been a fairly typical Liberal balancing act," says Wilson. "Rhetoric aimed at the left but policy initiative aimed at the business community. Talking to the left, governing for the right."

Stockwell Day's Canadian Alliance Party is clearly the main opponent of the ruling Liberals. Public opinion polls show this to be primarily a two-party election, with traditionally strong national parties, such as the Progressive Conservatives (PC) and New Democrat Party (NDP) reduced to marginal standings with voters.

Liberals see the reduction of the Canadian election into a two-party battle as advantageous as they are able to primary focus their campaign attacks upon one opponent. Liberals also expect to pick up votes from Canadians afraid of the Alliance's neo-conservative rhetoric. Alliance members, on the other hand, are hoping to pick up any right wing votes which were traditionally reserved for the now-weakened conservative party led by Joe Clark.

The position of the Tories has taken a beating with more and more members flocking to the Alliance banner. It remains to be seen whether the Tories will make any inroads into the crucial electoral ground of Ontario.

Dr. Wilson describes the public polling process as flawed. Many voters will not vote for a party they see as having no chance of winning, due to a poor standing in public opinion polls.

> The last seven years have been a fairly typical Liberal balancing act... Rhetoric aimed at the left but policy initiative aimed at the business community. Talking to the left, governing for the right.
>
> *Dr. Jeremy Wilson, UVic Political Science professor*

"The kind of people who are difficult for a pollster to reach are not the same kind of people who are sitting at home and will spend fifteen minutes talking to a stranger," Wilson said. "This is not a representative sample."

Indeed, Canada's electoral system makes it nearly impossible for a small party to gain any standing with voters. Alan Dolan, a Victoria representative of the Green Party, led by Joan Russow, describes such a phenomenon:

"I think the issue is that even though the Greens have polled as high as 10 per cent provincially, this tends to be discounted due to lack of seats." Dolan goes on to advocate electoral reform. "What Greens have been arguing for is a proportional representation system based on a percentage of the popular vote."

Student issues have traditionally been minimal during federal election. This is due to the predominant provincial jurisdiction over education.

"Education really is a provincial matter," said Steve Chang, employee of David Anderson, Victoria Liberal MP and Minister of Environment. "Of course the minister feels very strongly about education. We did make $23 billion in provincial transfers, although they're supposed to be spent on health care."

But how aware are students of the federal election issues?

"I'll have to read the newspapers and pay more attention," says Alan Dunnit, a second year physical education student. "I don't really know who's offering what."

Students wishing to register as voters can call elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868.

on the spot

by Genevieve Albert and Frances McClenaghan

Do you give a shit about the upcoming federal election?

Erika Anderson
3rd year Biology

I care. Voting is very important for Canada and I feel that if I am not voting, I am not contributing to the future of Canada.

Michael Mazza
3rd year Music

Yes and no. I do because I should but I don't think it'll make a difference because there's little choice in the election.

Jennifer Young
3rd year History

Yes. It's going to have an impact on my future. It'll be a really important election. The Liberals and the Alliance party are making a lot of new promises of reform.

Keetah Eggers
graduate student, Chemistry

Yes, because I think our education and whether or not it will be made a priority will be determined by who wins the election.

Cedar Hanneson
1st year Physics

Yes. I just vote for the Green Party so I don't really care.

Protecting your health.

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Canada

UN report says hunger keeps developing countries from self-reliance

Solutions lie in changing policies and public pressure on governments to act

by Carmel Ecker

While we know millions of people remain malnourished each year, a recent United Nations (UN) report on the "depth of hunger" in the world indicates that people aren't just hungry, they're starving needlessly.

At the 1996 World Food Summit, attending dignitaries set the goal of cutting world hunger in half by 2015.

However, in its second annual report on *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says this goal is unrealistic at the current rate of action and 2030 is a more likely date.

It's only if governments become more dedicated to reducing hunger that the 2015 goal would be possible, said Mak Fried, the communications and advocacy coordinator for Oxfam Canada – a branch of the international hunger and poverty relief advocacy organization.

"We should be on track and we can be," he said.

While Oxfam has been making as much noise as possible, though, Fried said, the government has made a 40 per cent cut to the total budget for its own efforts to reduce world poverty since 1991.

That cut, said Fried, is the result of the government's increased interest in trade and not enough emphasis on the fight against hunger.

Because most people don't make a fuss about the issue, Fried said, the government feels it can make cuts to its poverty and hunger relief agencies.

"I think Canadians act responsibly [when it comes to reducing world hunger]," said Fried, adding that many Canadian farmers donate food to other countries.

But the public needs to speak out more and put pressure on governments to act, said Fried. He suggested writing to MPs, especially in light of the recently announced Nov. 27 election.

"We're making progress," Fried said, referring to the fact that eight million people are no longer malnourished this year as compared to last year.

In its report, released Oct. 16, the FAO says it has determined a formula that pits the number of calories consumed by a group against how many they need each day. The calculations also take into account how much food a country produces and the inequality of food distribution within that country.

> The most undernourished countries are Haiti, Afghanistan, Somalia and Mozambique, where people are missing at least 400 calories of food per day.

According to this report, the most undernourished countries are Haiti, Afghanistan, Somalia and Mozambique, where people are missing at least 400 calories of food per day.

That's the equivalent of one quarter to a third of the average 19 to 24-year-old Canadian female's diet, which is above the minimum requirement for normal functioning.

According to the report, 18 of the 23 countries where people are most undernourished are African, which doesn't surprise UVic anthropology professor Dr. Eric Roth, who specializes in African studies.

"It's the only [continent] that's going backwards" in terms of food per capita and food production, said Roth.

That's primarily because of instability from wars and environmental factors such as droughts, he said.

But those are just two factors that are affecting world hunger.

International organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank are among those commonly accused of having policies that contribute to world hunger and poverty.

"The onus is on cash crops rather than food crops to pay off debts [owed to debt relief agencies]," said Roth.

One way to take the emphasis off of cash crops, is for the IMF and World Bank to come through on promises of debt relief, suggests Fried.

While the IMF and World Bank have offered debt relief to 20 developing countries, so far they haven't made good on their promises, he said.

It's also difficult for farmers in developing countries to grow their own crops because the WTO has made rules that force the local government to open its markets to other countries, thus driving down crop prices.

When farmers can't make enough money to survive, they lose their farms and head for the cities where they join the starving.

"It's not helping and it's a terrible shame," said Fried of the organizations' policies.

Hunger within a country perpetuates itself because people aren't healthy enough to be productive, so the country can't move forward, claims the FAO report.

And things won't change unless developed countries do.

Currently, there are 792 million undernourished people in 98 developing countries, down just eight million from last year.

They are joined by another 34 million underfed people in developed countries.

Among those who aren't eating enough, many are victims of monotone diets, which can lead to health problems resulting from vitamin deficiencies.

Two success stories, according to the FAO report, come out of Ghana and Nigeria, where the hunger has dropped by 30 per cent to 10 per cent of the population.

Part of that success is due to cassava, a root that provides a multitude of vitamins including A and C as well as iron and calcium.

The hearty cassava plant has been developed to be drought-resistant and high-yielding and can be left in the ground for up to three years, making it a good store crop.

But as Roth, Fried and the FAO report agree, more needs to be done.

Most important, said Roth, governments need to focus on producing food crops instead of cash crops, such as cotton.

Developing local markets will sustain local farmers to promote food security, which Roth explains as, "How close are you to having to sell your capital to buy food?"

They also need to store crops that can be used during crises such as droughts. Improving internal transport can be key to this as roads and trucks can access markets that have food other towns desperately need.

Peace would also be a helping hand, said Roth, because improving national security would undoubtedly improve food security.

"Stopping the wars would be a good thing."

One way, he said Canadians can help reduce world hunger is to visit www.thehungersite.com which contributes one cup of staple food to an impoverished country every time you click on the site.

The food is paid for by companies who advertise on the site.

Staying in Canada can be a tough job

by Jeffrey Werner

Two Chinese Ph.D. students were denied permanent residence in Canada last year because a visa officer decided they wouldn't have enough money to live here.

The married couple had completed undergraduate degrees in Beijing and were working on biology Ph.D.s at the University of Toronto.

Despite the Canadian government scholarships and grants the couple were receiving, the officer felt they couldn't sustain the minimum required income of $21,760. So, on the "personal suitability" assessment, the couple only got three points out of 10.

The two took their case to federal court and had the ruling overturned because the officer in charge of their case failed to recognize the couple's $13,000 in savings.

> The government is concerned people are using student status as a back door to immigration.
>
> *Don Casswell, UVic law professor*

Yet the incident raises concerns over Canada's international student policy. Are we denying residence to students who may contribute valuable time and research to our universities and work force in the name of Canada?

In applying for permanent status in our country, applicants are awarded points based on their "likelihood of succeeding in settling in Canada."

The "personal suitability" assessment that the two Ph.D. students failed is probably the least concrete yet most pivotal of the nine categories used by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Even if a person meets or exceeds the 70 minimum points tallied in other categories like education, age and language skills, an officer can reject the entire application after one personal interview.

UVic immigration and refugee law expert, Don Casswell, LLM, says Canada doesn't hide the fact it wants immigrants that will meet our current job demands.

"What drives immigration now is what skills you have. If you do anything in computer science it's easier to get in. If you apply for lawyer status, your chances are nil."

"Most countries don't even have immigration laws," he said, while Canada "actively encourages immigration. It's a pretty open policy. I think we're doing quite well."

Casswell points out, though, one of the problems is the ease of student immigration. "The government is concerned people are using student status as a back door to immigration."

He says some people, who might otherwise have difficulty applying from outside Canada, may attend school here to get a foot in the door. That way they can get extra points on such assessments as their education and language skills.

Foreign students applying for temporary status usually get accepted.

After a Canadian university confirms their enrollment, they can study in Canada on temporary student visas.

These international students must prove they already have the money to last the length of their studies. They must not work during this visitor period except on limited occasions such as co-op or on-campus jobs. Once their pre-determined length of study is over, so are their visas.

Almost 800 international students from 70 different countries are enrolled at UVic. Maggie Rowlands is an American student from Connecticut attending her second year here. She's studying in Canada on U.S. federal loans because it's a lot cheaper here than in the States.

"You get the same education, if not better, for a cheaper price," she said.

The average UVic undergraduate tuition for an international student in 1997/98 was $6,795.

Rowlands said getting herself into Canada on a temporary student visa was fairly easy, but rules out the possibility of staying here to work after her degree because it would be near impossible to land a job within the requirements.

"Immigration said I'd need a letter from an employer stating why a Canadian can't perform this job and an American can."

Miguel Labayen grew up in Madrid, Spain and is working on his Ph.D. in chemistry at UVic. Miguel applied for a five year temporary visa three years ago. When he completes his research, he will only try to find a job in Canada after applying for permanent immigrant status.

"Immigration [status] is expensive – about $1,400 – and you have to wait a long time."

Will it be difficult to get?

"No, easy if you have a degree."

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EDITORIAL:

Ditch gifts from Talisman: It's time for a clear policy on ethical investing

Hardcore corporate logo is scribbled across Canadian university campuses. The sales pitch confronts us even during our most private acts in public space: ads glare back as we sit or stand to use the toilet.

Every aspect of the academy's funding is commercially tainted. Pepsi emblems assault the eyes at every turn; our president is hired to cull $250 million in corporate dollars; now more than ever, professors are forced to vie for corporate sponsorship to be able to click their heels together in the name of scholarly research.

The call for private sponsorship at Canadian universities is a loud and grating noise hovering above the general public's virtual silence on cuts to funding. We know more money is necessary, but is the agressive drive for corporate sponsors so necessarily aggressive? Do we as a public institution intended to serve the citizens who created it have an obligation to set limits?

Clearly we do. The university has a responsibility to create a policy on ethical investing. Case in point: the university's recent $15,000 gift from Calgary's Talisman Energy Inc. and the thousands of pension dollars invested in its shares.

Talisman, one of Canada's largest oil and gas producers, has been the target of human-rights critics since it first took a 25-per-cent stake in a lucrative Sudanese oil venture in 1998.

Last February a federal report comissioned by Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy found that civilians living around oil sites were being forcibly displaced by the Sudanese government.

Since seizing power 10 years ago, the Islamic Khartoum government has been fighting a war against the rebel army in which over three million Sudanese, mostly Christians and animists living in Southern Sudan, have been displaced, murdered and forced to starve.

This week the *Globe and Mail* announced the world's most prominent relief agencies have asked Talisman to back off. CARE, one the world's largest international relief agencies, has asked Talisman to stop appropriating its name for charity drives called Project Care and Care Sacs. Unicef, Oxfam and other UN agencies have asked the company to stop saying it supports them.

The day after the *Globe* article, Talisman shares on the three major Canadian stock exchanges showed no tremors.

Within the last year, the stock market appears to have shrugged off the human rights furor, sending Talisman's share price to within $1.15 of a 52-week high on record results released in May that included a 5,000 per cent increase in quarterly profit from a year earlier.

O Big Bulging Brains on campus: are we all absolutely passive to corporate-sponsored fascism? What happened to a scholarship of compassion?

It's clear UVic must take pause amid the heady corporate campaigning to check to see if there is blood on our hands. Why isn't there a clear policy governing the ethics on investment at this university? Do we want dirty money to fund our learning here at UVic? Apparently, viscious violations of human rights won't budge the academy's ivory tusks.

The Martlet ran an article last May suggesting both the university's foundation fund and pension investments re-examine their lengthy list of questionable investments in such companies as Shell, Chevron, Slocan Forest Products, Alcan, Cominco and Barrick Gold Corp. The latest report from the pension portfolio for staff and faculty alone shows about $2 million in Talisman stocks. In May, portfolio manager Susan Service called ethical concerns "minority interests." According to trust law, a majority of pension members – that's 2000 folks employed by UVic – would have to form a majority to have any sort of clout in divesting hefty stocks like Talisman.

So it's time for the big wigs living in the white walls to bust a move on behalf of an academy for humanity.

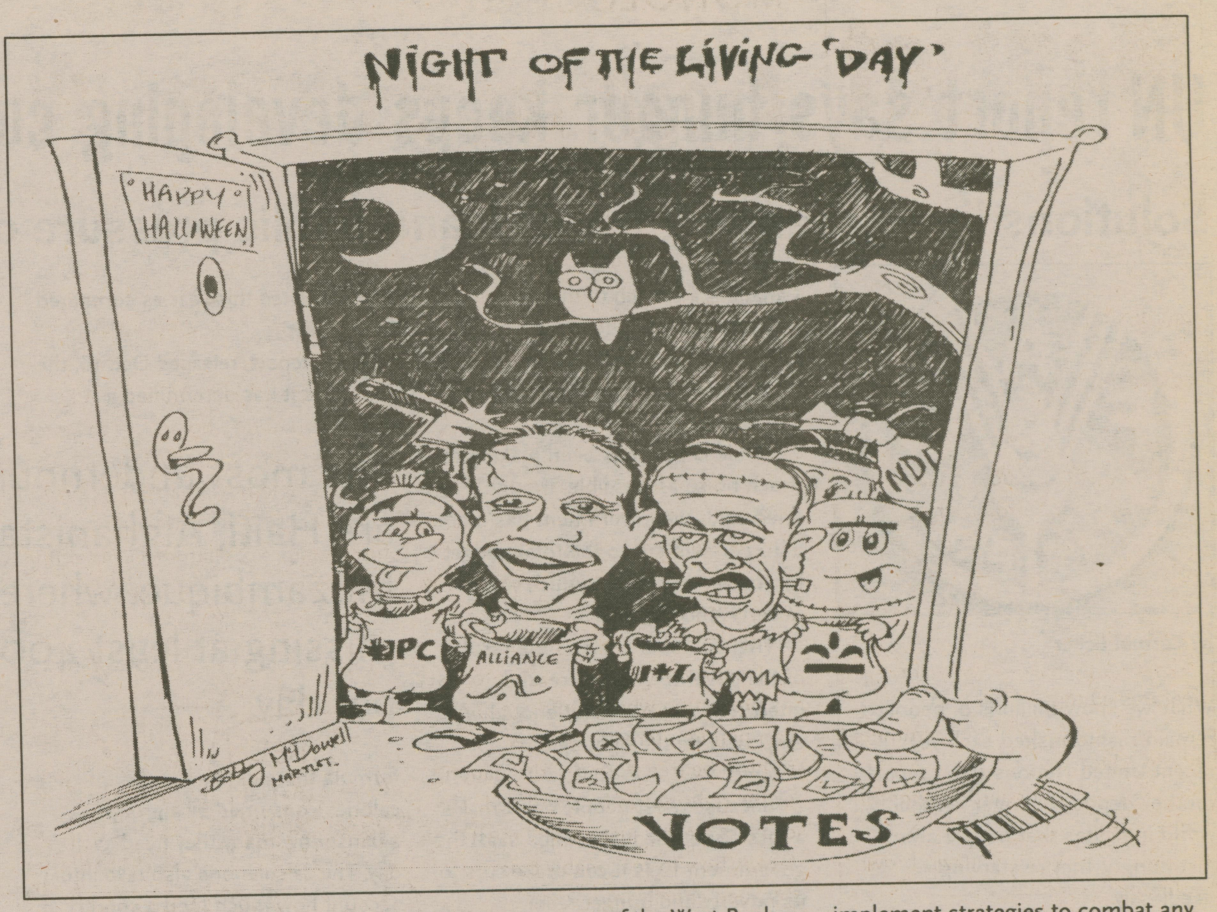
UVic's alumni magazine, *The Torch*, just listed a $15,000-plus gift from the oil company.

An academy for citizens funded entirely by citizens will clearly result in a poorer place of learning. However, it's also clear that the academy is fat with excess, starting with president David Turpin's contract offering $1.3 million over the next seven years. A university with no filter on its sponsors is no longer advocating for human rights, but serving the interests of free-market capitalism. The compromise is to create a set of ethical guidelines governing all public money – i.e. our dollars – invested at the university no matter what sock it is stuffed in. Our current Board of Governors guidelines for divesting on ethical grounds are passive principles waiting for either for individual members of the UVic community or board members themselves to be the corporate watch dogs.

Meanwhile, gifts like the recent one from Talisman tiptoe past the conscious observers.

Whether it's the people of Sudan suffering religious persecution, or the forests of Western Canada decimated in the interests of commerical forestry, the university has a responsibility to provide a vision with clear eyes and a clean heart. Without a policy on ethical investing the university is losing both individual and collective choice over its impact in the world community.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at noon in the SUB B011. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.



LETTERS:

Israel not unilateral

Last week's editorial, "Palestinian and Israeli conflict skewed," was flawed in various aspects. Israel's establishment was not "unilateral." The state of Israel was established with the consent of the United Nations, which in 1947 voted 72% in favour of the partition of British Palestine into Jewish and Arabic sections. This vote came after the League of Nations made Palestine a "mandated territory" which required Britain to help Palestinian Jews build a national home.

Secondly, Israel is not "the occupation of Palestinian land" and is rightly not reported as such. Jews lived in Palestine for two thousand years before their expulsion by the Romans between A.D. 132 and 135, and it has only been since the 600s that Arabs have inhabited the region. In the mid-1800s, European Jews began to re-settle the area and transformed the formerly infertile desert into productive agricultural land.

Your suggestion that Western access to oil and the Suez Canal increased as the relationship between Israel and the West solidified was strange. In fact, Israel is a net importer of oil and the Suez Canal is in Egypt. If these issues were the motivation behind Western foreign policy, our support would lie only with the Palestinians.

Finally, how can anti-semitism, defined as "hostility towards Jews" account for Israeli favouritism in the media, as you insinuated? If there is a pro-Israeli bias in the media, perhaps it is because that nation is a democracy and has demonstrated the ability to compromise. It was the Israelis who, during this summer's peace process, were ready to give up Gaza, 95 per cent of the West Bank and control of Arab neighbourhoods in Jerusalem, while Yasser Arafat would not offer a single concession.

Paul Mick

Possible renaming of the Coke Club

I was extremely disappointed with Mr. W_'s response (Oct. 19, 2000) to my letter concerning the C_k_ Club. All Mr. W_ managed to accomplish was to repeat the same rhetoric about preserving the democratic rights of cola drinkers on campus but failed to address the main thrust of my argument – how can the freedom of choice be promoted through a club that serves the interests of a huge multinational corporation? I agree with Mr. W_ when he points out that the campus is being bombarded with P__si advertising and that the exclusivity deal serves the cola company's self interest. But how does advertising the cola company's main competition (through the guise of a club) make the learning environment on campus any healthier – simply, how do two wrongs make a right? By advertising for the competition, Mr. W_ serves as a tool (with its corresponding 900 plus pieces) for a cola war between the two big cola producers who care little about freedom of choice. Wouldn't freedom of choice be better served by a club that adopts policies and strategies that combat involvement in degrading cola wars? Should a club representing the interests of all cola drinkers' freedom of choice be connected to one of the "big two" cola producers? Again, why not adopt a name that is generic like the "cola" club to show that this club is bigger than any one cola producer. The best way to guarantee freedom of choice will be for students to mobilize (something Mr. W_ is obviously capable of organizing) and implement strategies to combat any potential exclusivity deals in the future. I hope Mr. W_ is up to the task.

Thomas King

Cola shmola!

Let's end this waste of editorial space and drink more WATER!

Sarah Webb

Scott gets grilled

I found Mr. Roberts' silly little review on cds nothing short of uninformed and biased. "Why?" you may ask? Well... it all comes down to Kristine W. Her new album, *Stronger*, is NOT an "attempt to impress 15-year-old girls" with her "vocal inability." It IS an attempt to break into a market dominated by teenagers, using her INCREDIBLE voice. Has Mr. Roberts listened to her first cd, "Land of the Living?" Her range, use of dynamics and just sheer talent are astounding. Kristine W has been the underground queen of dancehalls across the continent for years, and to suggest that just because she is pushing 30 (a fact I'm sure she's come to grips with), she is reducing herself to the level of a Britney or a Jessica is just absurd. Yes, the new cd is definitely more radio friendly, probably because being an underground dancehall queen doesn't pay the bills. Did Mr. Roberts know that she wrote (or co-wrote) all of the songs, and even played the saxaphone? It is not for a lack of talent on Ms. W's part that her newest effort fell short in Mr. Roberts' estimation, but because of his own lack of talent in the listening department. Sorry, Mr. Roberts, but Kristine W screams "DIVA!" She does not whimper. Especially not to 15-year-old girls.

Lindsey Froland

Come to the Martlet's Annual General Meeting

Thursday, November 9 at noon in SUB B110a

the issues

- election of the Ombuddy committee
- election of the Martlet Board of Directors
- ad boycott list
- ratification of the MPS budget
- other tabled motions from the SAGM
- all staff members are strongly encouraged to attend this important meeting

drop by the office if you have any questions

[2000/2001]
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Letters: *the martlet* has an open letters policy and will endeavour to print every letter received from the university community, with priority given to undergraduate students. Letters must be typewritten, submitted on disk or by e-mail and include your name and student number for verification. Letters must be 200 words maximum. **Deadline** for letters is noon on the Friday before publication date. Letters will be prioritized by order received. Letters with pseudonyms or group names will not be printed.

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A call for clarity on UVic's harrasment policy

by Mark Redgwell

No serious defender of free speech will deny there are limits to that right and that those limits change with the situation and the times. Speech tolerated on a public street or in a bar might not be acceptable in a work environment.

Similarly, free speech in an academic environment is not, nor has it ever been, absolute. I am not free, for example, to abusively yell my opinions at teachers or other students.

Freedom to express begins to lose its protection when it infringes on competing interests, such as the right to be free from discrimination, or the right not to be slandered. The challenge every just society must face is how to reasonably balance between equally important, but occasionally competing interests. Governing bodies try to meet this challenge by defining these limits through criminal law, human rights codes, and, in the case of UVic, harassment policy. Unfortunately, the limits these governing bodies prescribe, and the individuals who apply these limits, are fallible and their decisions can be unjust. Canada customs targets gay and lesbian bookstores (Little Sisters Book and Art Emporium v. Canada) and police forces violate the civil liberties of activists protesting the presence of a brutal dictator (APEC inquiry).

On August 25, acting UVic president Dr. Penelope Codding provided the campus community with an opportunity to scrutinize the balance UVic has struck between freedom of expression and freedom from harassment. Dr. Codding accepted an arbitration panel's finding that Lorenzo Bouchard's expression of his opinions on First Nations treaties violated UVic harassment policy.

She ordered that Bouchard must obtain approval from the university prior to distributing any of his opinions on campus and not commit any further harassment.

These restrictions effectively banned Bouchard from expressing his views on First Nations issues on campus. Bouchard is a populist with a mission: he wants a democracy where citizens have the right to initiatives, referendum, and recall. His chief complaint is that treaties are a major issue and they should be decided by referendum.

He advocates imprisoning CEO's of corporations who are convicted of polluting, the reintroduction of co-op housing, and novel banking reforms. Other views in his newsletter are frightening. Bouchard believes voting

rights should only be given to people who complete a compulsory two-year military service, and that those who are "dedicated to destroying democracy" should be penalized with limited or no voting rights.

If in power, he would create a citizens' militia to protect and support "pure Democracy" and stop the secession of any lands from Canada. The law student and civil libertarian in me shudders at such notions. But Bouchard's "direct democracy" views are not the cause of campus upset. The uproar is over his opinions on First Nations issues and, more importantly, the tactics he employs in expressing his opinions.

Bouchard's newsletter makes a number of dubious, sweeping statements about what many First Nations students are feeling, believing and expressing. Bouchard, it seems, has the pulse of the First Nations.

What First Nations students found most offensive, however, is Bouchard's theory that they are misled in their opinions by Marxists who seek to abuse them for their own ends. The arbitration found this view "condescending and demeaning" and declared it proof that Bouchard's purpose was "to create an environment hostile to the views of Indigenous students."

It is undoubtedly grating to be accused of being misled or deceived in ones convictions. It is not, however, a novel experience on a campus where political activists and ideologies from both extremes seek to save the uninformed – people with different views – from the evil of ignorance. Nor is it likely Bouchard will win any converts with conspiracy theories and wearing sandwich boards that read "Original treaties for only 100% Blood Aboriginals."

Interestingly, Bouchard's conspiracy theory is not confined to First Nations students. He believes all students are in danger of indoctrination by Marxist teachers and commie students. In addition to his views, the arbitration panel found that some of Bouchard's conduct constituted harassment.

Bouchard was adamant that he always lets people approach him first and pointed out this was the first complaint brought against him in the twenty years he has protested in Victoria, including nine years at UVic.

Despite these adamant claims, the panel found his conduct included "aggressive eye contact," "body language used to engage the observer," extending a copy of his pamphlet to passers-by including aboriginal students and violating one aboriginal student's "right to remain a curious passer-by" by glancing at her as she walked past.

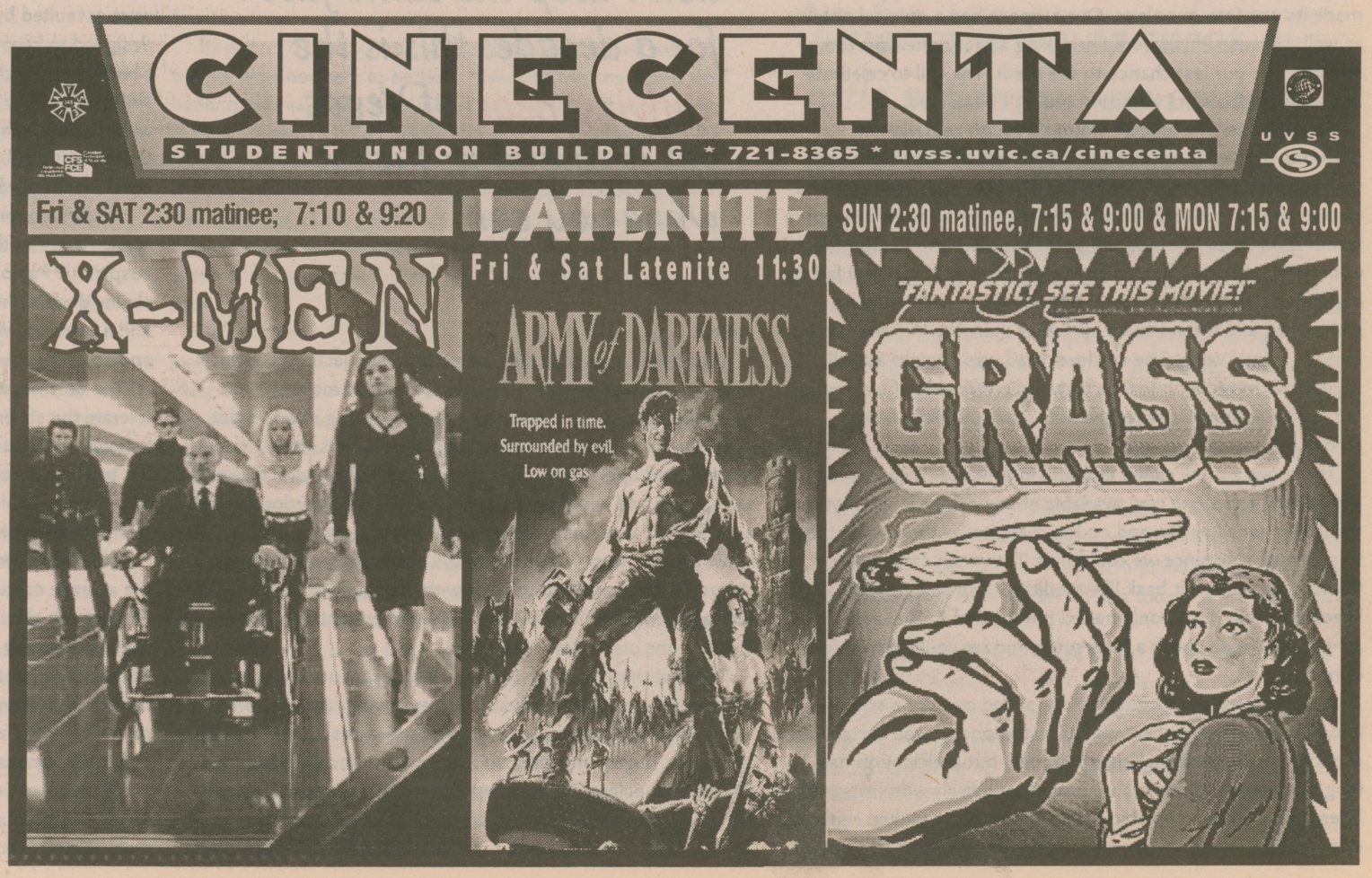
It is clear from the report that some First Nations students felt offended, disturbed and deeply upset by their interactions with Bouchard. One of the two complainants at the hearing said she was never approached by Bouchard and had not talked to him, but she found his mere presence upsetting. His material, she said, "struck at the heart of our identity as we try to focus on bettering ourselves." There is no question people found Bouchard's message offensive.

The question is: should offensive behaviour equal harassment? The exchange of opposing viewpoints, especially on very sensitive and controversial topics, is vital in the development of critical thinking. Inevitably, these viewpoints are bound to offend, yet UVic policy defines offence as harassment, and allows a mechanism for censorship. The test for harassment at UVic is subjective: if a person feels offended by another's actions, then she or he has been harassed.

The danger of this policy is evident in the panel's finding that "Mr. Bouchard['s]... major overriding intent [was] to initiate at least a change of mind... concerning the issue of treaty negotiations. We do not think we have to go any further than this to find his behaviour offensive."

Apparently, trying to initiate a change of mind is offensive, especially when that change is contrary to the opinions of the people sitting on the arbitration panel. No reasonable definition of harassment could include trying to sway the opinions of others. If the panel's findings and Dr. Codding's decisions are any indication, almost any speech that offends on the grounds listed in the policy (race, sex, religion, etc.) could be deemed harassment and censored. UVic does need harassment policies to ensure that individual expression does not override the other important competing interests. The policy must, however, distinguish between legitimate harassment and behaviour that, while strident and possibly offensive, *could not be reasonably* said to prevent members of the university community from participating as equals in the community.

There will be cases where, making that distinction will be a difficult exercise, but the Bouchard case isn't one of them. What is called for is a community-wide examination of the harassment policy and how it is being applied. On Nov. 3, Craig Jones, President of the BC Civil Liberties Association, is coming to UVic to contribute to that inquiry. Hopefully, the community will come out and participate, whatever their views may be.



Phishing in Vegas

Vegas is like Tolkien's Mordor through a black light: everything glows, and if it has a soul at all you know it's evil.

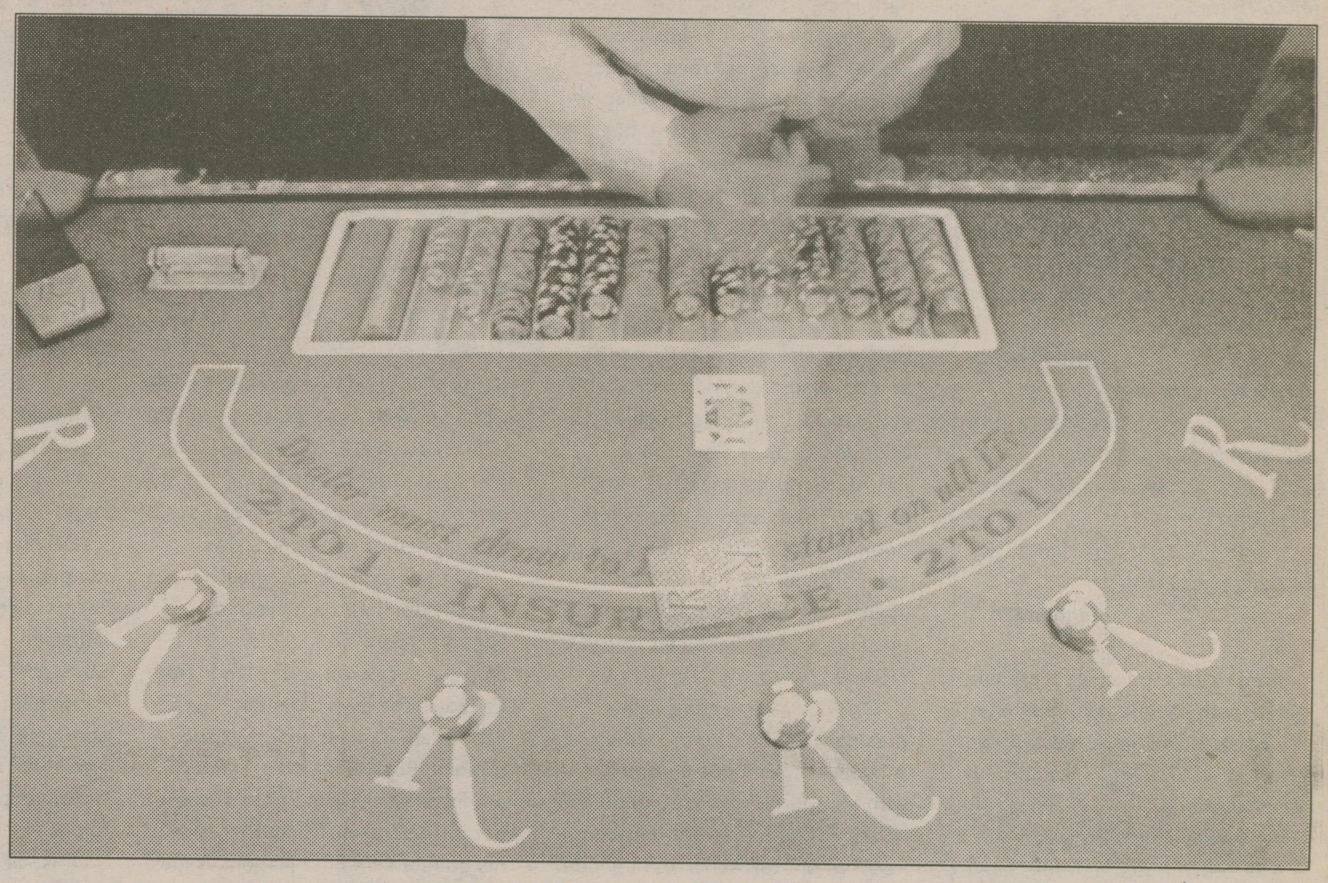


photo provided

by Arno Kopecky

The border guard waved us into America. As we stepped on the gas and revved up "Purple Haze", the question that had plagued us through September – How can five indebted students afford to see Phish in Las Vegas? – was vanquished by the only possible reply: How could we afford not to?

The alabaster Windstar we had rented lived up to its name, and we blew down Interstate 5. Two thousand miles ahead of us, Las Vegas spewed itself into the desert. Forget that it's been done, forget the call to reason to spend our hard-borrowed dollars on debauchery at home. We had good reasons for taking it abroad: Who were we to wonder what happens at the far end of material excess when we could see it for ourselves? Vegas, the biggest of cultural clichés, rolled off our tongues like honey and made its way into our plans. Our purpose had a musical nobility as well, because Phish would be taking a break after this tour, and this was our last chance to see them. The call to celebrate and emulate the stars we adore couldn't be denied.

So we drove. The asphalt wound through cedar-green Olympics capped in snow, past Seattle, out of Washington as the mountains flattened into rolling Oregon, past Portland, and by the time we got to California, the scenery had been clearcut in favour of ranches. We stopped at the Purple Plum in Humboldt County for a burger, then crept toward the desert with the falling night. Reno was a three a.m. foreshadowing I only caught a glimpse of, and when I woke up Friday morning we were blazing through Death Valley. The sea-level road was straight as hell, sage brush mixed with Joshua trees on either side of us, and in the distance, brown and jagged hills stuck out like ancient dinosaurs.

They have a drink called Red Bull in America. It comes in a slender red and silver can, available at any corner store. Not only did it keep us all awake and on the road, it was the closest thing to an illegal substance we could find. Too much caffeine for Canada. We sucked it back like medicine, and as I sipped I speculated that if B.C. only traded pot for Red Bull, maybe Americans would speak a little softer and we could get more done.

An hour from our destination we pulled over for a stretch, and the 40-degree heat hit our air-conditioned asses like a guilty conscience. We were making good time, but anticipation had long since given way to a boredom laced heavily with irritation. Twenty-four hours in a vehicle will test the most exalted sense of camaraderie. Reason was replacing the impulse that had gotten us on the road, reminding us of jobs and homework, money and time, and Vegas hardly seemed worth the effort.

Who the hell cares about Vegas anyway? Could it really be worth such a drive, when we'd only be coming right back in three days? The only solution was a solid dose of faith in perseverance, and our collective experience overcame the burnout. Believe in your rock stars. We put on funky wigs and disco shirts, cranked Phish out the speakers, and drove the final stretch.

Lots worth a billion dollars, buildings that don't keep the same face for a decade: this is the thriving heart of Vegas get it; spend it; fuck it while you can.

Vegas. As big as it already looms in our collective consciousness, as much as everyone has heard about in movies, magazines and ZZ Top hits, the reality of driving into the glut itself shocks all your preconceptions. Our moods were transformed upon entry into a strange excited blend of awe and, yes sir, fear and loathing. Vegas is like Tolkien's Mordor through a black light: everything glows, and if it has a soul at all you know it's evil. Vegas leaps out of the desert like an enormous Venus flytrap, built from day one with the single purpose of luring you in. Both the challenge and the temptation of making it out in one piece was unbearable.

The first thing we did was cruise the strip. Enormous fountains decorated each hotel, and every hour they put on a water show with gysers like oversized sprinklers. Caesar's Palace stood out, hugely imposing and white, surrounded by massive fake marble pillars. The next hotel was a glass Egyptian pyramid bigger than an airport, guarded by a full-size replica of the Sphinx. Next, a miniature but still enormous Eiffel Tower fronted the Paris Hotel. There's Treasure Island with its tropical façade, where every night at dusk two pirate ships come out in front to engage in battle. MGM Grand: tall, flat and dark against the horizon as though it were a sky-high credit card with a thousand sunglasses. The Stardust. Circus Circus. Bellagio.

Lots worth a billion dollars, buildings that don't keep the same face for a decade: this is the thriving heart of Vegas "Get it; spend it; fuck it while you can." Driving down that strip, neck craned, and looking up at mad predatorial structures, I felt like a rabbit – through the looking glass and on the menu. The list goes on, the strip never ends, and everywhere the singing bells and flashing lights of the Casino, Lord of Vegas. It's blinding even in broad daylight.

We had rooms at the Sahara, a mid-range hotel with an outdoor pool and its own roller coaster. Opening the doors we were assaulted by high-powered, oxygenated air-conditioning, designed to keep the patrons conscious; we walked past roulette wheels, black jack and baccarat tables, and countless binging slot machines to get to the front desk. No matter where you want to go in that town, they've put a casino in front of it. But we made it through without a single bet, checked in and ran for cover on the 23rd floor.

That afternoon we hung out on the pool deck, drinking margaritas. Another player had entered the equation, the auspicious Pablo, a friend from San Francisco. Pablo was a skinny dude with a straight-faced grin, black machete-sideburns and a crewcut, who hadn't had to cross the border on his way, and so brought with him our narcotic buffet.

The only way to be in Vegas is bent. How else could a person tolerate the sheer empty grin of the place? We had come to behold a cultural phenomenon that only America could erect, but to survive we needed to do two things: become one with it, and endure. Pablo had what we needed. We were no competition for Hunter S. Thompson, but we did all right.

Phish came on at 8 p.m. at the Thomas Mack Arena. Inside, the average costume had eight colours and a pair of shades. People with glowsticks and sparkles bumped and grinned and spaced their way about. Of course, a lot of Deadheads switched allegiance when Jerry quit the scene, and you could spot them too, their 30-something faces, dreads as long as pythons, not quite as excited as the rest but totally at home. They've been doing this for years, some for decades.

We had wondered what would happen when Phish met Vegas. Love and renunciation versus greed and ultra-materialism. But the fundamental weirdness they held in

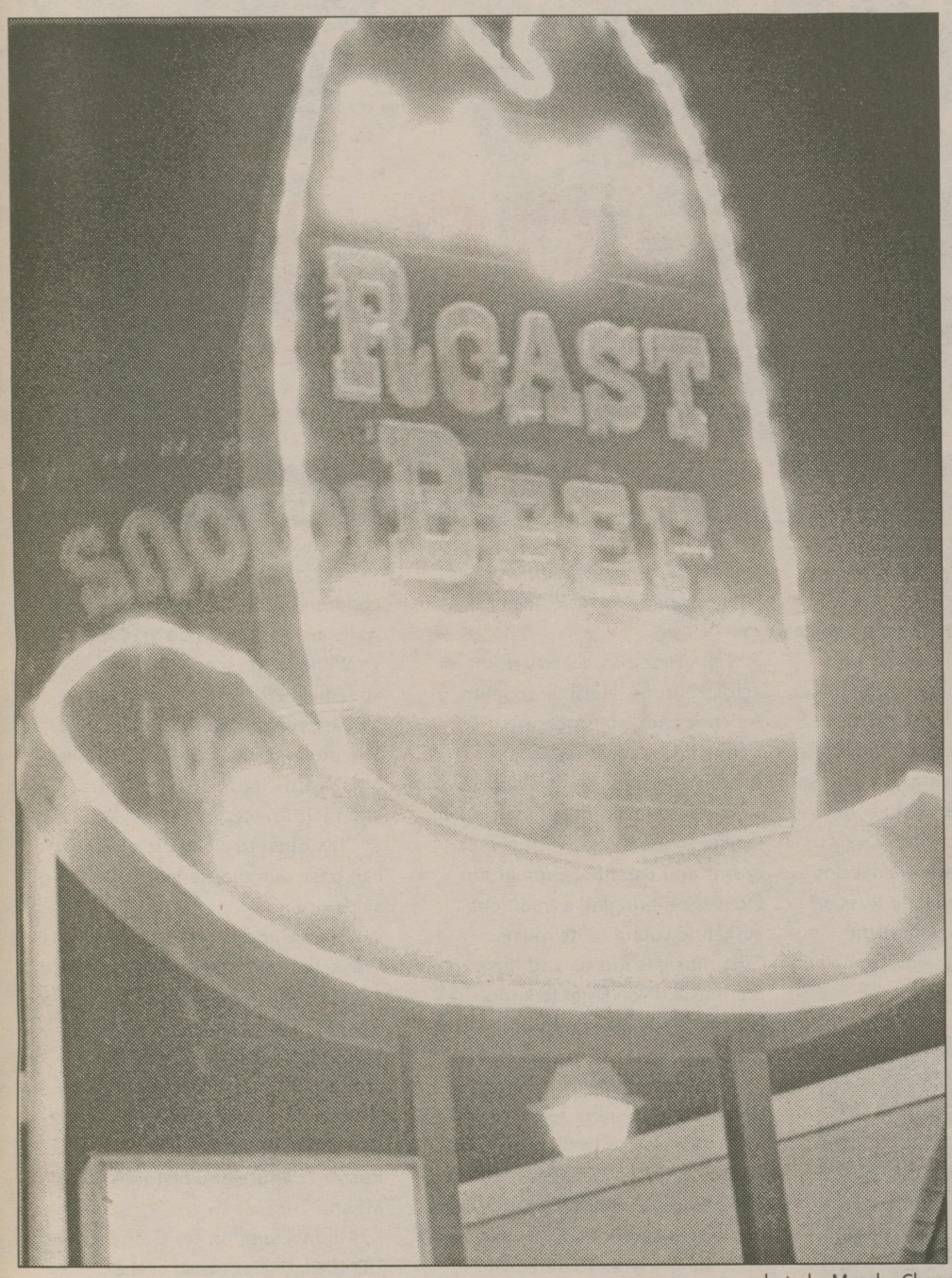


photo by Meesha Chan

photo provided

Vegas, the biggest of cultural clichés, rolled off our tongues like honey.

common overcame the value clash. Vegas, like a black hole, has room for everyone, and everyone was stoked as hell to be exactly where they were.

Twenty thousand people in a room, 20 thousand people seeing through the light, shaking down the house, erupting. The light show was part of the music, and the sound and visuals grew hand in hand. I imagined our UVic campus in there, all the people who walk past each other every day, who check each other out and leave it there, who we never really get to know although we study, live and breathe together. We created our own universe, a strange hall of happiness within a stranger den of vice in the middle of a desert.

And who should come out on stage at the end of the night but Kid Rock? He ran on stage and high-fived Trey, then proceeded to blow the trembling walls off the stadium. I'm no particular fan of the Kid, but I'll give him credit for the rock-n-roll show he cranked out with Phish backing him up. They covered "You Shook Me All Night Long," and "We're an American Band," "Rapper's Delight" and "Walk This Way." You'd never guess it wasn't ACDC or Grand Funk Railroad on stage.

When the show ended, we just had no idea what to do with ourselves. You'll never see more lost souls than after a Phish show in the middle of Las Vegas, everyone thrust back onto pavement – thousands of fish flopping on the dirt. We toured around the town, quite stunned. We stopped in for drinks at the Hard Rock Café, an emporium of stiletto heels, disco balls and Top 40 cheese. Before long our own casino seemed like the best place to be, so we went. The gamble began.

In the back of all of our heads swam the notion that this trip might be salvaged by the grace of Lady Luck. This hope was nourished by the fact that liquor becomes free the moment you sit down in a casino - so really we were saving money. High rollers that we were, we went straight to the dollar table and tried to build an empire on a 20 dollar bill.

The waitress doesn't love you at the dollar table until the place has filtered out. By 4:30 a.m. the alcohol kicked in and we really started losing. Some of us were up quite high by then. Genie was our waitress; she must have come out of one of the cheap-ass bottles of liquor behind the bar, though she did all the rubbing. If anyone embodied the spirit of Las Vegas, it was Genie. She looked like she'd seen every nook and cranny of the Vegas entertainment industry: a bleached blonde 40-something creature who scared the hell out of all of us. Her skirt was short enough that I don't know why she even bothered wearing it. She bobbed through the casino with a frozen plastic smile, leaning close and leering in our faces when we ordered, and I swear I only drank the double shots of rye so that I wouldn't have to see her.

By noon I'd been gambling for eight or nine hours; my friends were nowhere to be seen. Wyoming Joe, the dealer who bankrupted me, said I'd better get some sleep. I think I might have got a couple hours before showering and going down for lunch. This was buffet paradise, kilometre-long spreads of ancient greasy food under halogen lights that I could all too clearly picture coming in on an underground conveyor belt from Texas. No one had the balls to try the meat. Everyone looked green that day already, and the food did nothing to alleviate our pain.

No rest, no time, and no recovery before the next show started up again. This one wasn't as hot, which I accredit to the likely fact that no one in the stadium had had a chance to sleep. The band relied on jams and didn't have the spark they had the night before, nor was the crowd as vibrant. That said, even a weak Phish show is always a night to remember, and the fact that they were about to take a two year hiatus (after 17 years of steady tours) made us savour every moment.

By the time it was over, our second winds had all kicked in, and we were much more focused than the same time the night before. We knew what we wanted. I rode in the back of Pablo's truck with a drink in my hand and a grin on my face as we headed down the strip toward the Stratosphere, the place with the best view in town. Vegas veered above and all around me, and it hit me what a privilege it was to be able to smile in the face of a monster.

We got to the Stratosphere, walked through the casino to the elevator and took the 30-second ride up to the roof. This was a CN-tower-like building, a tall sleek spire from the top of which it all spread out below us. We were out in the fresh night air now, amazed at the glittering scene of Vegas. But there was more than just the view – a ride awaited us. We paid the fare, climbed up the final staircase, and sat down on the seats provided. I felt a sick finality with the click of the locking restraints. Someone whimpered. I stared out far and wide, and suddenly it hit – the rocketship g-force of a vertical ejection 300 feet above the tallest building in Las Vegas. We were riding an inverted Drop of Doom, with our mouths too full of stomach to speak. Our bodies stopped at last and came back down to rest, but our minds kept travelling, they spread out through the sky across the city, past it, through the desert, enveloping the distance and the wonder and the peyote-strangeness of all that we had seen.

If B.C. only traded pot for Red Bull, maybe Americans would speak a little softer and we could get more done.

It could only degenerate from there. Stumbling, giggling and muttering profanities, we went back to Genie (maybe we liked her more than we liked to admit), gambled until the sun came up and roved like gypsies through the morning streets. Our travels culminated in a bath, us in our skivvies, splashing and laughing like children in the Ceasar's Palace fountain, washing ourselves free of sin and sleeplessness in the 10 a.m. Las Vegas sun. The streets were full, our cries were jubilant, and we barely got a second glance from passersby. It's tough to make a mark in Vegas.

Vegas, though, had left its mark on us. We treated the place like an amusement park, but who took who for a ride? Vegas makes its living on cultural icons and love of illusion. Nevertheless, it's an ugly reminder, and as we stood in front of Caesar's Palace, dripping with clarity, we saw the time had come to run away. Time to go home, to leave this place where beautiful and ugly fall apart, where a person can go and get lost in the hollow delight.

Sit back on a Sunday (or any other day) and savour a jazz master

Stephane Grappelli
Live at the Cambridge Folk Festival
BBC Worldwide Music, 2000

by Simon Glezos

There's nothing quite so enjoyable as listening to a master musician playing at the top of his game. Stephane Grappelli: *Live at the Cambridge Folk Festival* offers just that.

Grappelli, arguably the greatest jazz violinist ever to walk the earth, is in fine form on this disk, creating in a way that makes you glad to be alive and near a good stereo system. Recorded over two Cambridge Folk Festivals, one in 1983, the other in 1973, the disk features all the standards from the heyday of jazz, from Berlin to Porter to a tune by Django Reinhardt himself. Overall, the songs are bright and energetic, but with a certain laid-back quality that makes the album eminently listenable. Grappelli's playing is smooth and confident, displaying years of practice, effortlessly rattling off beautiful melodies. Backed up by an impeccably tight band, he is allowed to show off his remarkable range and engaging tone.

Grappelli is probably best known for his work with Django Reinhardt at various points in his career. However, this album clearly shows that he has a talent that is independent of the group he's working with.

Can anything critical be said about the disk? Well, perhaps it should be mentioned that most of the performances don't have quite the same energy and fire of his earlier recordings. This isn't Grappelli hopping around on stage with Django Reinhardt and the Hot Club Quintet. However, whatever might be lost in the way of youthful vigour is more than made up for by the confidence and sheer technical brilliance that can only come with age.

Take my advice. Go pick up this cd, find a comfortable chair on a warm Sunday afternoon and enjoy listening to a master.

Russian folk ensemble promoted by UVic connection

photo provided

by Sarah Glen

A Russian folk ensemble which made a stop-over in Victoria last week is teaching cross-cultural celebration through music. The Moscow-based music troupe Grenada is hoping its USA 2000 tour will foster better understanding in the West about Russia.

"Through music we will develop ties from North America to Russia," said Tatiana Vladimirsky, artistic director and musician with Grenada.

"It's hard to hate a different culture when you have been exposed to it."

The group has been performing across Europe, North and South America and Asia since 1978. Combining traditional Russian instruments such as balalaikas (wooden, three-stringed instruments similar to the guitar) with pianos, drums and pan flutes, the group focuses on bringing a traditional, authentic sound to its music. "The music is Russia and Russian is the music – you'll get to know the country if you listen," said Vladimirsky.

But it's not only the instruments that make audiences feel they've been transported to the exotic and volatile lands of the biggest country on Earth. Each of the six musicians perform in authentic Russian dress – from the gold-embroidered white, red and black tunics to the knee-high leather botinok (boots).

And while the ensemble may look and sound like a snippet of Russian folk history, it is Grenada's focus of passing on its history to North American audiences that make the group different from other ethnic music groups.

Calling children to dance on stage at their matinee performance at Alix Goolden Hall here in Victoria, Oct. 14 was just one example of the group's willingness to push cultural boundaries. The five, six and seven-year-olds on stage jumped, shook and twisted their small bodies to Grenada's music.

"We don't specifically play to children but it is through them that walls are broken," said Vladimirsky.

While in Moscow, Grenada spearheaded a youth-oriented, smaller version of itself: Grenadita. The group, made up of 12 to 20-year-olds, learns traditional folk music and instruments for free.

"It's open to all and is a way we can pass our knowledge on," she said.

The troupe was sponsored by Crosscurrents International Institute, a group that helps brings ethnic arts to other countries and by UVic Slavonic Studies professor Oleg Minin.

"I try to support groups [like Grenada] that expose my students to Russian culture and history," said Minin.

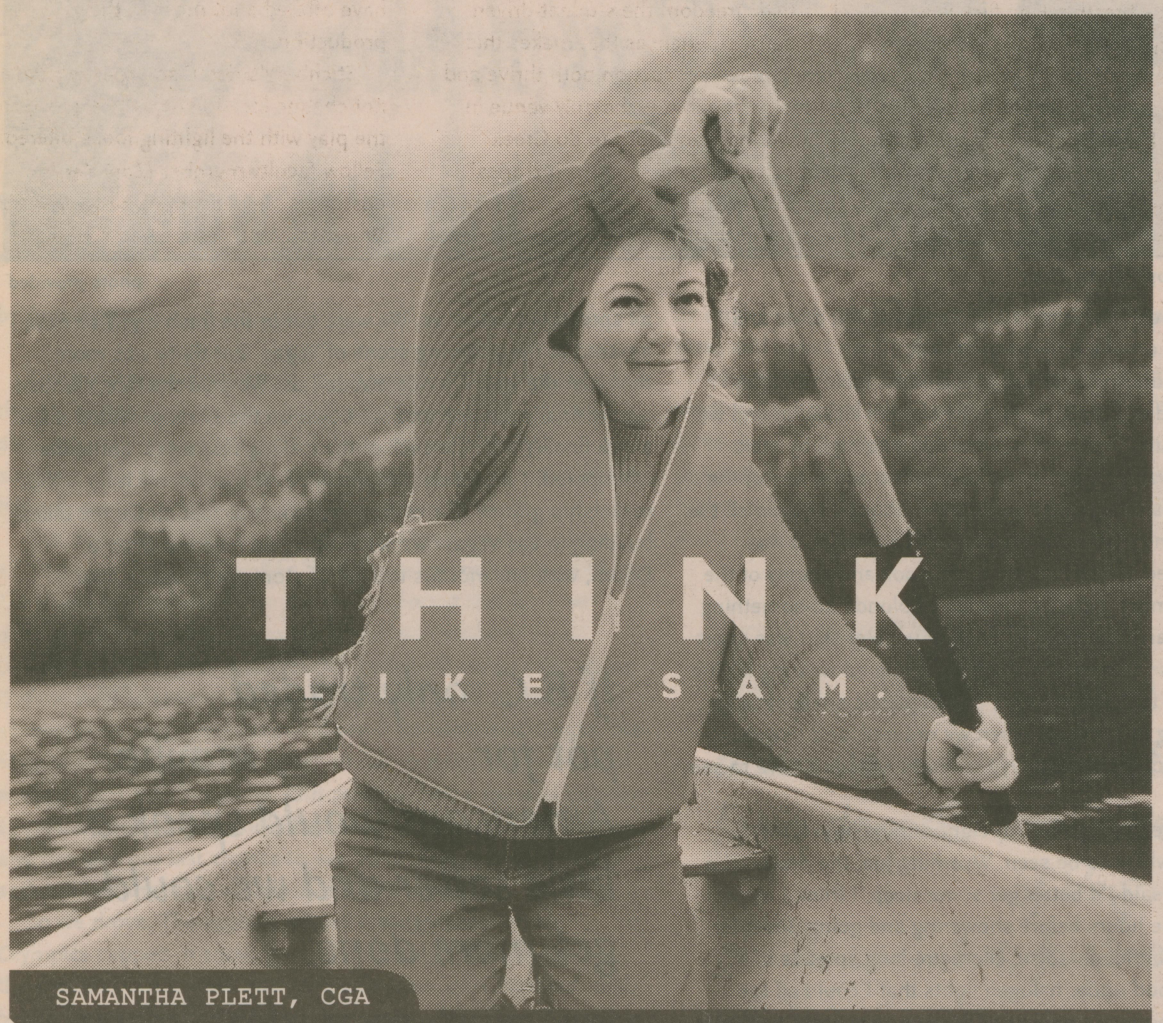
Minin's support for Grenada is just the latest example of the Slavonic Studies department encouraging Russian culture here in Victoria.

Victoria's Balalaika Orchestra (VBO) was spearheaded by another of the department's professors, Dr. Nicholas Galichenko.

Galichenko donated his 30 balalaikas to the orchestra. VBO plays traditional folk music similar to Grenada and has travelled to Vancouver and Seattle.

"We don't have a big Russian community here in Victoria and I wanted to bring old Russian music to this region," said Galichenko.

Grenada headed back to Moscow on Oct. 16.



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Herbaliser returns with new fusion

photo by Normandy Daniels

by Normandy Daniels

From the size of the crowd, it is obvious few people missed one of the best live shows to grace Victoria with its presence in a long time. Herbaliser treated the eager crowd at Legends last Thursday night to a high-energy performance.

After things were nicely warmed up by Montreal hip-hop trio Shades of Culture, everyone was truly pumped for the arrival of the band's eclectic ensemble onstage. Within minutes of starting their set, the audience was entranced by Herbaliser's blend of funk, jazz, and beats.

Dj Ollie got things rolling with some bumping beats and breaks, and things started to sizzle. Adding to that was the energy of some amazing drumming and the the mellow stylings of the keyboardist, which kept the happy crowd dancing like granolas. The highlight, however, had to be the outstanding performance of the horn section, whose laid-back, jazzy exhibition belied the intensity of their output.

While those who are unfamiliar with Herbaliser's sound may have been expecting something a little more hardcore coming from the Ninja Tune label, the mix of acoustic sounds seems to be the wave of the future for electronic music. It allows live bands the freedom to experiment with new sounds and and mediums, while providing talented djs with the capacity to infuse new life and spontaneity into their music.

Victoria had a chance to witness this fusion when The Third Session visited Neptune Sound Bar in September. Also, Victorians will start to see some local acts popping up in this genre. Otis Avery and Alma, who will be featured in next week's article on UVic's new music collective, are an example of a growing interest in the local scene.

TGR stunts start ski and snowboard season

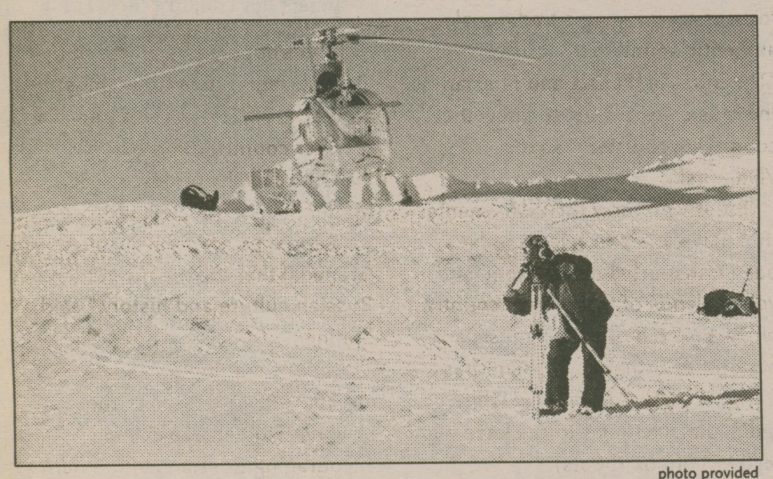

photo provided

by Leigh Cormier

The ski and snowboard season started early at Vertigo last Tuesday night with the Victoria premiere of *Further*, the latest release from extreme adventure gurus, Teton Gravity Research (TGR). Mellow TGR devotees and extreme fanatics gathered to check out the new flick, hosted by local rider Travis Wilson and Extreme 103.7.

Teton Gravity Research is a Jackson Hole-based adventure-production company. The company is comprised of professional athletes, cinematographers, mountain guides and high-angle production specialists. Founded by Jackson locals Dirk Collins, Corey Gavitt and Todd and Steve Jones, this company is the brainchild of four ski-lovers. It was during a 1995 ski trip that the four friends decided to start up the film company. Started using money pooled by the four friends, the company focused their energies on soliciting the talents of top riders. The result was a series of captivating and unbelievable snow stunts filmed around the world.

Since 1995, TGR has made five feature length flicks showcasing the talents of some of the world's most capable skiers, boarders, surfers, mountain bikers, base jumpers and kayakers. Their first film alone sold over 8,000 copies and yielded TGR a "Best New Filmmakers Award" at the International Ski and Snowboard Festival.

In subsequent years, TGR has received recognition as the "Best of the Fest" at Banff Mountain Film Festival and as *Skieur Magazine*'s "Best Film of the Year." The group travels during the winter season, filming in such locales as B.C., Alaska, Japan and Norway. They spend the greater part of the summer editing and putting together films that will tour in the fall.

Further features some of the most progressive athletes in the ski and snowboard arena. The athletes flaunt their skills against the backgrounds of remote locations and in terrain parks around the world. Micah Black, Jeremy Nobis and Jeremy Jones make first descents on insane Val Dez faces in Alaska, while Quebec brothers Les, Trois and Phillipes make jaws drop with their tricks in the terrain parks.

TGR picked their settings by heliflying over rugged terrain. From the peaks of B.C.'s Fernie and Nelson to the slopes of Europe, TGR's breath-taking flick is a straight-up delivery of 90-degree inclines and dangerous ice bulges, where Kent Kreitler, Gordy Peifer and Dave Swanwick rip their stuff through rugged spots across the globe. *Further* has been touted by numerous critics as TGR's "best film yet," and if the response of the crowd at Vertigo on Tuesday night is any measure, this is an accurate statement. Courtney Oscarson, a former ski racer from Kimberley, B.C., commented, "*Further* is definitely a step up, not only in terms of quality of footage, but in terms of skiing – the slopes were gravity defying and the stunts were crazy. The skiers have improved their performances significantly since TGR's last film."

Event host Travis Wilson was stoked about the new film. He has been an ardent supporter of the group since its inception. TGR's latest effort impressed Wilson enough to extend an offer to bring the film to Victoria (the film is currently on tour around the world). If you missed the flick, don't despair; Wilson is currently considering a second viewing for the Victoria riding industry come early December. For more information, please contact Travis Wilson at 413-5351.

Wild frogs go awry

Theatre review of *Frogs*
Directed by Brian Richmond
Phoenix Theatre

by Colin Plant

Thank the gods for universities! For in what other Victoria theatre would you find actors exuberantly squealing as they ejaculate their 'seed' onto the audience? Or perhaps witness a sheep ram the flanks of a mule? Wait a second! Is it already time for the annual sex issue? No! This is a review of the Phoenix Theatre's production of *Frogs*.

The season-opener at the Phoenix is a modern adaptation of a classic comedy penned over 2400 years ago by Greek playwright Aristophanes. It was so popular during its time that it was the first play to ever receive the prestigious distinction of being produced for a second time during Aristophanes' lifetime.

UVic Theatre Department faculty member Dr. Jennifer Wise has taken the classic comedy and produced a bawdy, fun and modern adaptation. Unfortunately, guest director Brian Richmond stages an incomprehensible production. Richmond makes the play seem like an excuse for a parade's worth of spectacle.

Because the campus theatre does not live or die based on their box office revenue alone, they can afford to produce plays like *Frogs*. It is this artistic freedom the student-driven theatre experiences that makes this ambitious production both thrive and fail. Although it is the only venue in town that can afford to do Greek theatre with any sense of historical accuracy, this production is so over-stylized that it shrouds the play's message of 'old versus new' ideologies in a self-indulgent orgy of spectacle.

Together with his chorus of designers and assistant designers, Richmond has crafted a well-intentioned, spectacle-filled production that unfortunately does not give the audience a clear understanding of what Aristophanes was trying to say with the play. One should not be required to read Athenian theatre history before attending a play, but this is exactly what is necessary in order for an average audience member to appreciate what is being presented on the stage. Sure it is fun to watch, but what is really going on here?

The way in which the adaptation is staged results in what essentially seems like two plays. The first is concerned with Dionysus' tumultuous journey to the underworld in order to bring the recently deceased playwright Euripedes back to Athens to continue writing populist plays for the theatre. The second half brings a debate between the 'old' playwright Aeschylus and the 'new' playwright Euripedes.

This clash between new and old ideologies serves as the backbone for the play's purpose. However, both the prologue and epilogue, each penned by Richmond, didn't work. In them Zeus is seen as the motivation for Dionysus' trip to Hades. This attempt to give the play another level of meaning seems awkwardly contrived, is poorly written and to put it bluntly, is unnecessary.

One cannot blame the cast for the show's failings. Indeed, the student actors are its saving grace. Meg Roe and Jay Bennett portray Dionysus and his slave Xanthias with unrelenting energy. Without their abundant confidence and comic flair, the show really could have pulled an Icarus.

The chorus is the most successful component of the production. The nine enthusiastic and earnest cast members who make up the chorus successfully convey the traits of the genre. Their songs, dances and banter with the main characters are effective examples of how the ancient genre was meant to be performed. And although their speeches may not always be in perfect unison, their ample energy makes up for it.

Faculty member Allan Stichbury's set is functional, but lacks the ingenuity of other sets he's offered for the department. Having a simple, tiered, black and white set satisfies what the play requires, but does not have much of an aesthetic appeal. Professional lighting designer Ereca Hassell's lighting is serviceable, but really could have offered a lot more to the production.

Stichbury's tiered stage simply did not change locations effectively early in the play with the lighting looks offered. Fellow faculty member Mary Kerr's costumes were disappointingly uneven. Whereas some of the characters had magnificently detailed and charismatic costumes, some of the chorus' early costumes were uninspired and appeared to have not received a lot of attention. That said, the costumes used for the choral ode sung by the frogs were fantastically inventive.

Frogs runs 95 minutes with no intermission. I wondered to myself how many in the audience, the majority of them silver-haired, would have left had they had the chance provided by an interlude. But then again, perhaps they knew this could have happened and consequently cut the intermission.

The person sitting next to me on Saturday night's performance may have summed it up best when he suggested afterwards that he "couldn't understand what was going on, but he certainly wasn't going to forget it anytime soon."

I think Brian Richmond might have been better served by heeding Aristotle's words, "Theatre must entertain in order to instruct." It seems that Richmond was a slave to the former, but ignorant of the latter. *Frogs* runs until Oct. 28. For tickets or more information call 721-8000.

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EXCERPT: *Smudge*

by Joy Poliquin

Her parents are to fly to Thunder Bay on Monday. Claire waves goodbye through the sliding glass door. She sits on the cold linoleum and watches the rain slip down the panes.

In the living room, she pushes two of the corduroy armchairs together so they face each other, and drags her comforter and pillow from her room upstairs. Wrapped in warm plaid, she eats hot white popcorn and falls asleep watching Jeopardy.

Her mother has left dinner in a blue plastic container in the fridge. Claire sits on the carpet in front of the television and picks through the container with her fingers. She pulls the thin strips of chicken from the slimy yellow peppers and uses a clot of brown paper napkins to wipe off the soy sauce. In her mouth, the chicken dissolves into chewy strings, and Claire thinks of muscle and of her cousin, and she spits the chicken into the sink and turns on the garborator.

Her father calls from the memorial service at 7 a.m.

"Claire," he says. "Claire, have you prayed?"

"Dad, I - "

"Did you just wake up? Ron wants to speak to you."

Her uncle talks about Graham, about the accident, how the forklift malfunctioned and Graham was crushed under 300 pounds of raw lumber. He tells her about the precise little details no one wants to hear. Claire puts the phone on the arm of her chair. She wraps herself in the plaid comforter. Faintly she can hear her uncle crying.

"... lifting lumber, he knew the job, he didn't do anything wrong...

Claire, don't think he made a mistake... it was the forklift..."

The voice stops. Claire picks up the phone.

"I'm so sorry I couldn't be there," she says. "Tell Susie I wish I could have been there."

"It's alright. You couldn't miss school. Everyone understands. And thank you for the card," he says.

"Umhum," she says. Her mother must have bought a card and signed her name to it. She wonders what it said.

"This just... I don't understand how, you know Claire? How does this happen?" Ron begins to cry a wet sniffly cry. He sounds like he is choking. Her father picks up the phone.

"Your uncle is having a really hard time. We all are. You should see your mother. How are you holding up kiddo? I'm sorry we had to leave you –"

"I'm fine," she says. "I'm fine here alone."

***

Tuesday night, Claire brings out the picture albums and spreads photographs over the brown carpet in the living room. She wears her mother's deep green silk nightgown; her hair is tied back in long black braids that run down her back. On the floor there is a picture of her father and mother at their 10th anniversary party, taken in their garden in Thunder Bay. Her father stands in front of the barbeque, a metal spatula in one hand, a bag of white rolls in the other. Her mother is holding her husband's waist and smiling wildly. Claire sits behind them on the bright grass, a small black-haired three-year-old playing with Graham, who is six. There are photographs of the day they left Thunder Bay. Claire is older, almost 16, and in one photo she is sitting in the driver's seat of the U-Haul, her arm hanging from the window, waving goodbye. There is a picture of Ron and Susie with Graham, and one of Graham and Claire hugging. Claire is facing away from the camera, and her cousin's hands are cupping the crease in the small of her back. In the dark light of the living room, Claire holds this picture with one hand, then shifts to her knees on the brown bristle carpet and runs her finger up the smooth sheet of silk that lies on her thigh. She lets her finger roll over the top of her thigh, then lets it glide towards the warm wet spot between her legs. She thinks of Graham's hot mouth pulling on her fingers, his tongue between her lips, his hands on her stomach. She stretches out on the carpet and pulls up the waves of the nightgown until they dance on the bristles of dark carpet beside her white shoulders.

In her mouth, the chicken dissolves into chewy strings, and Claire thinks of muscle and of her cousin, and she spits the chicken into the sink and turns on the garborator.

***

Closing her eyes, she sees the grey brick walls of her basement in Thunder Bay. She sees the red vinyl couch, and she sees herself and Graham, huddled on one corner as blue light from the television flickers on their faces like ocean foam. Her dark head is nestled into the hollow of Graham's shoulder, his right arm tight around her waist. She turns her face towards him, and he brushes her cheek with his lips, then kisses the soft pink satin of her eyelids. She begins to breathe deeply, and he pulls away, leans against the back of the couch. She watches her cousin's face. For a moment he holds her head and she watches the breath move in his throat, pushing the skin in and out. Claire reaches up and touches her thumb to his chin, takes his hand and puts it to her face. Slowly, Graham traces Claire's cheekbone with his finger, then curves his hand behind her head to cup her scalp. The screen turns to black and the blue flickers dissolve as she feels his lips hot on hers and opens her mouth to the swollen pink of his tongue.

Bolen Books

Alan McHughen - *Friday October 27, 7:30 pm at Princess Mary*

Few subjects are as contentious, or as confusing, as that of genetically modified foods. Don't take another bite until you hear what **Alan McHughen** has to say. *Pandora's Picnic Basket* explains the science behind genetic modification with the general reader in mind.

Ken Oppel - *Saturday October 28 at 1 pm*

Ken Oppel is one of the most widely respected children's writers in Canada, and one of the most beloved by his readers. Fresh from opening for **JK Rowling** at Toronto's SkyDome, Oppel will be signing copies of his bestsellers *Sunwing and Silverwing*, as well as his first adult title *The Devil's Cure.*

Eden Robinson - *Saturday October 28 at 3 pm*

From the UVic Creative Writing Department to the Giller Awards... **Eden Robinson** will be signing copies of her Giller Prize nominated novel *Monkey Beach.*

Robert Bateman

Saturday October 28 at 7 pm - Lecture with slide presentation

Nature has been **Robert Bateman's** inspiration since he began painting birds from his bedroom window as a young boy - he is deeply worried about the state of planet and our natural heritage, and *Thinking Like A Mountain* is his *cri de couer,* a gathering of questions, observations and idea's drawn from **Bateman's** own life, and gleaned from the writings of the visionaries who have inspired him.

Steven Manners & Jamie Dopp - *Monday October 30 at 7 pm*

Two dark novels, in time for Halloween! Set in contemporary Montreal, *Ondine's Curse* (Beach Holme) is a powerful probe into the human psyche. Moody and macabre, **Steven Manners'** expressionist novel is a literary tour de force, lurching through the dementia of the twentieth century.

A literary thriller in the tradition of *The Name of the Rose* and *The Telling of Lies*, **Jamie Dopp's** *Prospects Unknown* (Ekstasis Noir) offers a compelling detective story alongside a witty meditation on the relationship between fiction and reality.

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Top Canadian lit talent makes Young Tongues a festival hit

by Neil Comer

Brad Cran's follow up to last year's *Hammer and Tongs* at the Vancouver International Writers' and Readers' Festival showed another amazing mixture of poetry, fiction and song writing. Young Tongues was a celebration of young writers and the generation of readers who will keep their craft alive.

The show was a testament to Cran, a poet himself, especially his perseverance in putting together a main stage event for young writers.

"Tonight's reading was strong in all areas of writing," said Cran. "It had a broad range of talent and the perfect combination of mood and energy."

The show kicked off with Jennifer Duncan, a Toronto writer who embodies the culture of urban punk survivalists. Reading from her book of short stories, *Sanctuary and Other Stories*, Duncan offered a scenic look at the world of punk:

"Writing exams with shoulder length gold lamé gloves on, my arms flashing all Gilda Glinda good witchy under the high school's fluorescent lights..."

Award-winning Toronto poet Ken Babstock transfixed listeners with his poem, "*A 7-11 Formally Known as RX*", told in the voice of a local pharmacy that was converted to a 24-hour convenience store. Babstock spoke with a sense of urgency that brought forth lost sentiments with lines like, "I haven't slept since 1983." Babstock was awarded a gold medal at the 1997 National Magazine Awards for his poetry. *Time Magazine* called his first book, *Mean*, the best thing to happen to Canadian literature this decade.

Anne Stone is a Montréal performance poet with a new book out called *Hush*. Her writing left an strong impression as she choreographed a synergy between content and form, twisting body parts effortlessly around the speakers' podium in conjunction with her words.

UBC creative writing graduate Rick Maddocks began the musical muscle of the night bringing alive the folk singer-song writer tradition with a set combining a short story and a song called "Movies in Her Head." Lily Frost continued with a more grungy set at the intermission and finished off the evening with what she declared a "truly inspired set with all these writers around me."

Vancouver performance poet Micheal V. Smith was a queen without the drag for the night's event as he injected both humour and energy into the show for the second round of poets. Smith is a queer poet with a penchant for using words with shock value to "liberate the audience," he says. Smith subverts an age-old European male penchant for associating women's bodies with fruit by comparing men to oranges: "Peel them back," he says,"chew them up and spit out the seeds."

John MacKenzie's gritty, working class poetry was the highlight of the night. "Drinking with a Neurosurgeon" had the timing of a skilled stand-up comedian as he followed the preceding silence with "So I cut into his head, see."

Smoking Lung presents a night of edgy music and poetry, Thurs., Oct. 26 at Thursday's Pub, 1821 Cook St. at 8 p.m. Acoustic wonders Flophouse Jr. will play between sets. The line up of writers includes Ken Babstock, Karen Connelly, Brad Cran, Carla Funk, Gillian Jerome, John MacKenzie, Rick Maddocks, Karen Solie and Amy Besflug. UVic writing grad Billeh Nickerson will host the event with his usual ha-ha sexiness. Cover is $5.

A VIEW of organized noise: spontaneity in concert

photo by Danielle Glass

by Danielle Glass

A group of women hot on improv delivered a night of raw musical talent in town.

The Vancouver Improvising Ensemble of Women (VIEW) put on an unconventional show at Open Space – not a performed set of songs, or a re-enactment of practiced camaraderie and carefully memorized scores. This was to be an evening of raw musical energy.

Featuring the combined talents of DB Boyko (vocalist), Peggy Lee (cello), Lauri Lyster (percussion), Marilyn Lerner (piano), Karen Graves (saxophone), and Lori Freedman (clarinet), last Friday night's performance was an artful fusion of theatrics and organized noise.

Formed by Boyko in 1997, the VIEW Ensemble is not a music group, but an ongoing project that Boyko describes as a "composition of several forms of music and a fusion of cultures put together by women improvisers." Indeed, VIEW is the first women's improv group in Canada. Boyko credits the lack of female improv groups as her reason for bringing the project to life.

The six women offered a mix from their varied musical backgrounds, combining contemporary with speech, opera with jazz, classical with the mundane. The night was a fusion of fluid melodies punctuated with the absurd, ranging from pattering footsteps to the tap of fingernails on the gyprock wall. Exaggerated physical movements accompanied the group's unique sound. Each woman had her own way of expressing the raw, dynamic energy. Arms swayed as their instruments flew around the room while DB Boyko danced uncontrollably to her throbbing rendition of a Latin hymn. In the corner, Marilyn Lerner set the beat of the set by spinning her piano stool with gusto.

From behind, Lerner looked more like a furniture repair person than an expert pianist. When Lerner did play, she strummed the strings inside of the piano instead of the keys. The result: piano tuner meets the Sound of Music.

The focus of the night was not the instruments, but how these instruments assisted their players in creating other means of organized sound. Percussionist Lauri Lyster moved from the drums to play on the wooden floor of the stage. Swigging mouthfuls of water out of her bottle, Boyko gargled into the microphone. In this performance, the lifting of an arm could become a part the music. It was obvious that there was no limit to the various ways to create music from different sounds, with original compositions creating a raw sound that contrasted greatly with the conditioned tunes dominating today's radio and record stores.

Boyko finds meaning in sounds, and for that reason, the music that is created is hard to repeat. With experience in theatre, dance and voice, Boyko admits there are different perspectives on how to improvise. She describes improvisation as being similar to boarding a train: "You could wait five minutes before you decide to get on. You listen for the openings and where you should contribute. Direction, timing, ideas, and risk are all a part of bringing everything together. Listening is the key, so you must enter the music with a certainty of what you are doing."

The visual dynamics meant that stage surroundings also affected the sounds created. Boyko used a red spot light for her introduction of "Red, red, red red red".

"It's an electricity that is hard to define," she said. "You must feel what is in the room and interpret that for yourself. That's how I decide what will happen."

VIEW's 10-minute encore left the audience wanting more. For more information on VIEW, please contact Open Space at 383-8833.

Trading Fiction for Fact: A review of Fred Stenson's *The Trade*

by Rob Woolridge

Perhaps the most important part of the word "history" is "story," and perhaps the most difficult task in writing historical fiction is to the make the history disappear, leaving room for the story to grow and develop.

The Trade, a new Giller-nominated novel by Alberta author Fred Stenson, pulls it off. I'll admit I had apprehensions before I approached this book. I had never found the fur trade to be that fascinating a topic, and the thought of reading 340 pages about it was less than appealing. But Stenson had me right away – right from the start with his puzzling, almost alchemic prologue.

The novel begins in 1822 following the merger of the Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Company, and essentially ends in 1867.

In between, we get the story of The Company, a consolidated monopoly, and their increased development west to the Rockies and south to Missouri. Guiding this development is the company's dependence on numerous Native tribes as trading partners, as well as the emergence of America as a major competitor trying to lure the Native trade their way.

Two characters guide us through the story, aging before our eyes during the 45-year sweep of the book – Ted Harriot, a talented nephew of a Company officer, and John Rowand, a fur trader with the odd nickname of One Pound One, given to him because of the sound he makes from walking with one lame leg. Other characters play significant roles as well – Jimmy Jock Bird, a mysterious Métis who's returned to live with his Native ancestors, and the Governor, the cruel and vindictive leader of The Company who seems to redefine evil with every action. But it is through the eyes of Harriot and One Pound One that the reader gets to see the world and into whose minds we are invited by Stenson.

The structure of the novel is quite unique. Set apart in seven sections, each section is preceded by a letter from a fort worker, one who served under One Pound One towards the end of the latter's life, to an unnamed editor.

The letters are dated in 1900, a full 33 years after the story is over. Stenson rewrites, with the help of the fort worker's alternate views, the history of the Company and its dealings with the First Nations. The reader is allowed to enjoy the factual historical accuracy as well as this new version of the personal histories of the men.

Through his letters, the fort worker does not give the impression of fictionalizing the truth. Quite the opposite. A passage from one letter reads, "if the history books are right and the people who told me are wrong, that makes history the only kind of water that gets cleaner the farther downstream you go."

One of the book's strongest traits is the setting. The landscape is painted with a poet's eye for detail and is written so vividly that the reader, should they be magically dropped into 1822 Canada, would be fully capable of being a guide. The novel rarely, if ever, lets the reader down. The characters leap to life the moment they are introduced, and it's hard not to sympathize with their respective plights.

The title, *The Trade*, becomes the perfect metaphor for the novel. On a basic level, it refers to the fur trade. But as you read on, you can see the notions that trading brings to mind: what exactly is given up in one's life compared to what is received? This notion plays an increasingly important role in the lives of the characters. This is truly a remarkable novel, one which is certain to breath new life into historical fiction the way it's breathed new life into the Canada of 1822.

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Vikes athletics in brief...

by Jeremy Shragge

Rugby
With their season barely underway, the University of Victoria men's rugby team has already demonstrated that they can hold their own in one of the toughest rugby union leagues on the continent.

Saturday's 18-13 victory over the visiting Capliano RFC improved the Vikes record to three wins against only one loss, placing them fourth from the top in the talent-ladened B.C. Premier League.

UVic opened the scoring early in the first-half on a Jeff Williams penalty conversion. After two penalty kicks by Capilano the Vikes regained the lead – permanently as it would turn out – on a brilliant five-point run by wing Trevor Hammond. With Williams' conversion, the Vikes entered the water break with a 10-6 lead.

It was much of the same in the second half. Capitalising on a Capilano turnover not long after the restart, UVic's Dean Parchomchuk sprinted unmolested past the opposing backs for the Vikes' second try of the afternoon. Although the score was not converted, the 15 points would prove to be enough for UVic on the afternoon.

A second penalty conversion by Williams increased the Vikes' lead to 18-6 before Capilano finally breached the tryline; thereby narrowing the gap to five. With just minutes remaining in stoppage time UVic was forced to fend off a last minute surge by the Vancouver club. The Vikes' pack was up to the challenge, holding firm on their own tryline, dashing Capilano's attempts to knot the score.

UVic's next match is Saturday, Oct. 28 against Bayside RFC. The Premier League season continues throughout the winter.

The Vikes women's rugby club, which competes in the Canada West/CIAU, hosts the Canada West playoffs this weekend (Oct. 27-29). Preliminary matches will be played at Wallace Field, while the conference championship will be decided at Centennial Stadium.

Men's Soccer
A better finish to the Canada West regular season could scarcely have been scripted. With one weekend remaining and the four playoff positions heretofore established, all that remains to be decided is which school, the University of Victoria or UBC, will finish at the top.

As fate would have it, these two clubs, both of whom are knotted atop the Canada West table with 22 points and one game remaining, face-off at Victoria's Centennial Stadium Friday evening. The victor earns the right to take on the fourth seed, the host University of Lethbridge Pronghorns, in the conference semi-finals Nov. 4; the second place finisher clashes with the third seeded Calgary Dinos.

Were the season to end today, the UBC Thunderbirds would be declared champions; due to their 1-0 win over the Vikes way back on Sept. 16 (the first game of the regular schedule). Thus a Thunderbirds' win or a draw would relegate the Vikes to second place and a date with the Dinos.

Entering this past weekend's play UVic enjoyed a two point advantage over UBC in the standings. Both West Coast teams travelled to southern Alberta to take on the Calgary and Lethbridge clubs. On Saturday, Victoria edged past the Dinos, 2-1, on the strength of goals by strikers Chris Craveiro and Jason Owen. UBC kept pace, however, with a 2-0 win over the Pronghorns.

The next afternoon, after swapping Alberta locales with the Thunderbirds, the Vikes received their first taste of the potentially disastrous soccer conditions awaiting them at the Canada West finals.

Up 2-0 late in the second half, thanks to another pair from Craveiro and Owen (who remain tied for the conference lead in goals scored with 7), Victoria saw their lead – in both the game and the conference standings – quickly evaporate. Goals from the Pronghorns' Jason Elligott and Brian Boehme permanently knotted the match at two apiece.

The draw, along with UBC's 2-0 victory over Calgary, eliminated the Vikes' lead over the Thunderbirds in Canada West, thereby setting the stage for this Friday's decisive showdown.

Kick-off at Centennial Stadium is 6:00 p.m.

Women's Soccer
For the fifth consecutive week, UVic striker Wanda Rozwadowska has been named Canada West female footballer of the week. On the road in southern Alberta, the second year Victoria native scored three goals on in the Vikes four point weekend.

Against the U of C Dinos on Saturday, the Victoria squad salvaged a 2-2 draw thanks to a timely goal from the foot of midfielder Tricia Warrender (82nd minute). The following afternoon the Vikes reasserted themselves, and their scoring proclivity, with a 5-0 win shit-kicking of the Lethbridge Pronghorns.

Jacquelyn Harrison (pen. 6th min.), Joann Nash (12th min.), Rozwadowska (18th & 49th mins.) and Nicholson (82nd min.) accounted for the Victoria goals. With the weekend's efforts, Vikes keeper Morgan Leverman dropped her goals against average to a miniscule 0.63; and chalked up her fourth shutout in the last five outings. Only Taryn Swaitek of the Dinos has allowed fewer goals -- both of which came on Saturday against UVic.

Regardless of the result from this weekend's season finale against UBC (in Vancouver), the Vikes will appear in the Canada West semi-finals against either Calgary or UBC.; the final seeding is still up for grabs. The fourth play-off spot will go to either the University of Saskatchewan Huskies or the University of Alberta Pandas.

A Vikes victory coupled with a Calgary loss (the Dinos play twice) guarantees Victoria the top position in the final regular season table; and thus a date with either the Huskies or Pandas. Two wins from the Cow Town lasses would catapult them into first and set-up a Vikes-Thunderbirds semi-final.

Canada West scores and standings

Canada West soccer

Women's

	W	L	D	GF	GA	Pt
Victoria	5	0	4	23	5	19
Calgary	5	0	3	14	2	18
UBC	5	1	3	20	6	18
Alberta	2	5	1	12	11	7
Sask.	2	5	1	12	16	7
Lethbridge	0	8	0	0	41	0

Saturday's result (Home/Away):
Calgary 2, Victoria 2
Sunday's result:
Lethbridge 0, Victoria 5

Men's

	W	L	D	GF	GA	Pt
UBC	7	1	1	22	5	22
Victoria	7	1	1	20	7	22
Calgary	4	3	1	13	11	13
Sask.	2	6	0	9	16	6
Lethbridge	1	5	2	8	18	5
Alberta	1	6	1	6	21	4

Saturday's result:
Calgary 1, Victoria 2
Sunday's result:
Lethbridge 2, Victoria 2

Women's field hockey

Final Conference Standings

	W	L	D	GF	GA	Pt
UBC**	8	2	2	30	8	26
Victoria	8	2	2	29	7	26
Alberta	5	5	2	26	14	17
Calgary	5	5	2	13	16	17
Manitoba	0	12	0	1	54	0

****UBC wins on head-to-head record.**

Saturday's result (at Vancouver):
Victoria 2, Alberta 1
Sunday's results:
Victoria 0, UBC 1
Victoria 4, Manitoba 0

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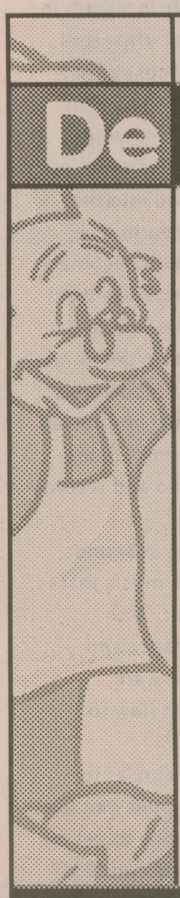
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UVic baseball looking for its own *Field of Dreams*

by Iain McLetchie

"If you build it, they will come."

For those of us fortunate enough to have watched *Field of Dreams* (undoubtedly the best sports movie ever made), the words evoke images of baseball and childhood. Tossing balls back and forth between players, long swings at pitches, and a certain girl running the bases backwards during a field trip to a local Hutterite colony. (Yes, that really did happen, but it was in Grade 3 and she'd never played baseball before).

One wouldn't be surprised if Brad Chewpoy, UVic men's baseball coach, hears the same voice that Kevin Costner heard so many years ago. After all, if the UVic men's baseball club could find somewhere to play home games, opposition teams would undoubtedly come.

Right now, there's no place to play home games in Victoria. UVic doesn't have the facilities, and while the team does practice regularly at Lambrick Park, they've been stymied in their efforts to host games and tournaments at that venue.

Why? Well, Chewpoy knows and he's a tad peeved with the reason. "We can't host games and tournaments because this is the only full-time baseball field in Saanich. A guy associated with the local program has basically claimed the field for himself and the program, because he's put a lot of money into it." This "guy" remained nameless throughout our conversation, for obvious reasons.

Chewpoy points out the right-field scoreboard and mentions the cost of it, all of which this man paid for out of his own pocket. I'm impressed, but while it seems like a lot for a scoreboard, it certainly isn't enough to warrant claiming sole rights to the field for games.

Chewpoy goes on, "The thing is, he's involved with a junior team. You'd think he'd want the field used just as a way to give the kid's something to look up to, maybe a team they'd like to play for one day."

Mike Leskiw works for Saanich Parks and Recreation, and says use of the field is really quite simple.

"The team first has to come to us and talk to the resident club, in this case Lambrick Park Baseball Association. If they can fit the new team in, the new team has to pay a user fee to Saanich Parks and Rec., and then go back and show the resident club that they've done so."

So it's really up to the resident club to let the new team (in this case UVic), use the field. I wondered why Saanich Parks doesn't just allocate time to each team, and Leskiw informed me that, "this system really benefits everyone involved because the resident team takes careful care of the field as they have to use it regularly. If fee-paying teams just showed up and played, they'd chew the field up and leave it. It also saves us money, as our maintenance costs are cheaper."

Leskiw wasn't really sure about the detailsof the UVic baseball team's situation, but from what he stated earlier, it comes down to the choice of the resident club.

In the UVic case, if the resident club won't let them play home games, that's just how the rules work.

Chewpoy continues to look for options. One possibility might be the vacant lot next to Wallace Field, but it might not be the required size. "We have looked at it and the surveying is all done. It could work, but it would be a tight fit." Another possibility is a bit of land owned by a family friend further up into Saanich. Once again, they'll have to scramble for funding for development and lease of the field.

> This system really benefits everyone involved because the resident team takes careful care of the field as they have to use it regularly. If fee-paying teams just showed up and played, they'd chew the field up and leave it. It also saves us money, as our maintenance costs are cheaper.
>
> *Mike Leskiw, Saanich Parks and Rec.*

With no home base for games, UVic will be forced to play all games on the road. Malaspina is the only other college baseball program on the Island so the team is forced to travel either by ferry or plane for every game. It's costly, and it sucks up a majority of the funds which UVic allocates to the club, leaving very little for other items such as equipment and uniforms.

"We get by with the bare necessities. Guys go out and buy their own pants, and we've often borrowed tops from local clubs in town." says Chewpoy. "We fundraise as much as possible, but it's been tight. We're playing in some crazy weather, so we need gear for that. Seeing as we're always on the road we need travel gear. The cost of bats and balls... it all adds up."

And they definitely travel. With almost 20 games scheduled for the fall, and a majority of them against independent college teams in Washington and throughout the Southwest, the team gets to see a lot of different places. It's fun in some ways, but it gets tiresome after a while. A long homestand would be a welcome treat for the boys, but that doesn't appear to be in the cards any time soon.

Chewpoy would love to have a home field, but still likes what he sees. He started the program four years ago, and has seen it rise from playing inter-squad games to being competitive with National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) schools.

Does it give him any sense of satisfaction? "Oh, definitely. To see where we've come in four years is tremendous. We've traveled all over and played a really good level of ball. It's definitely something to look back on, remembering playing at this level."

As for the guys he plays with, Chewpoy is really impressed. "We've got a very dedicated group of guys. These are guys who've played all their lives and love the sport. There are a lot of very good players too; most of the guys have played Team BC and a few have draft potential." The team is highly competitive and Chewpoy feels they could be even better.

"We're trying to promote the program in Victoria because so many players from this area go south. We could have a great program if we could hold on to some of them."

One way to keep players on the island might be to join a league. Chewpoy thinks so. "I'd love to see us gain Level 2 status and play in the National Collegiate Athletic Association or NAIA. It doesn't necessarily mean we'd be a better team or have better players, but I think it would be a good sign."

Meanwhile, the club travels on and tries to stay prominent in the Victoria baseball community. Paul Smith, UVic's Competitive Sports Club Programmer, is very happy with the efforts made by Chewpoy and the rest of the team, and wasn't shy about letting me know. "They're a great group of guys who run a really good program. They've done a fantastic job of promoting themselves throughout the community."

That's pretty high praise, but after talking to Brad Chewpoy, it's understandable. This is a very good program with potential to become even better.

Now if only someone had a corn field out there...

Women's field hockey finish second in CanWest

by Craig Battle

While rekindling an age-old rivalry this past weekend, the UVic women's field hockey team came a bounce or two away from a Canada West title.

In a match that could have gone either way, the UBC Thunderbirds took both the Canada West crown and the Vikes in a 1-0 victory. UVic had several scoring opportunities, but could not put it past the UBC keeper.

"We just didn't get the bounces," said head coach Lynne Beecroft. "If you were to ask UBC, they'd probably say they were lucky to come out with a 1-0 win."

Even with the UBC victory, the two teams ended in deadlock at the top of the conference standings with 25 points apiece. However, the Thunderbirds secured the league title with a 2-0-1 season-series record.

"That's just the way it goes," Beecroft said. "I believe we would have won on point differential."

The nationally third-ranked Vikes finished the tournament with three wins, over Calgary, Alberta and Manitoba, and only the one loss to the host UBC squad.

> "We just didn't get the bounces. If you were to ask UBC, they'd probably say they were lucky to come out with a 1-0 win.
>
> *Head coach Lynne Beecroft*

UVic opened the tournament against a tough Calgary side. The Vikes held a slim 1-0 lead for nearly the entire game, while the Dinos pressed the entire time. Two late scores lifted UVic to a 3-0 victory.

"They played really well and we were on our heels," said Beecroft. "It really was anybody's ball game for 50 or 60 minutes."

Anna Grimes, Tracey Court and Rachael Peters all made the scoreboard for the Vikes in the contest.

The ensuing match against Alberta held more of the same for the Vikes. The Vikes eventually won 2-1 off scores from Peters and Lauren McLean, but not before some buzzer-beating drama.

UVic once again took a 1-0 lead into the closing minutes, but the Pandas managed to tie it up with seven minutes remaining.

But the Vikes quickly answered, and knocked in the go-ahead goal with only two minutes left on the game clock.

"One of our goals was to play right through for 70 minutes," Beecroft said. "It would've been really easy for us to just fold our tents, but we played through to the end."

In the third game of the tournament, UVic faced off against Manitoba. While the Bisons remain winless this season, Beecroft warned her team not to take them lightly.

"You have to go out every game and play every team with respect," she said. "[The Bisons] really have improved and their goalie really made some great saves this season."

The Vikes won 4-0 on goals from Anna Grimes and Tracey Court, and a pair of scores from rookie Chelsea Haines. Vikes' keeper Janet Filipenko recorded her second shutout of the tournament.

While not victorious, the Vikes still brought home a nice supply of hardware. Four UVic defenders, including Meggan Hunt, Anna Grimes, Kristal Timmer and Andrea Rushton, all earned Canada West all-star nods.

Up next, the team has its sights set on the upcoming CIAU national championships, which will probably include a gold medal game rematch with the Thunderbirds.

The Vikes are focused, hungry and ready. But Beecroft will be the first to admit, though, that a little luck wouldn't hurt.

"I'm hoping the bounces will be in our favour in about 10 days or so."

UVic hosts the CIAU field hockey championships Nov. 2-5. After taking home the banner in 1997, the team has settled for second place the last two years to UBC, so come out and cheer them on to another golden finish.

Vikes Athletics
University of Victoria

Canada West Women's Rugby Championship
Oct 27 - Oct 29
Friday & Saturday: 10 am, 1 & 4 pm @ Wallace Field Sunday: 12 noon, Bronze Medal Game
2 pm, Gold Medal Game
Sunday games @ Centennial Stadium

Canada West Men's Soccer
Friday October 27
Game vs UBC to decide 1st place in Canada West
6 pm @ Centennial Stadium

721-8406 www.uvic.ca/vikes

photo by Shoshanah Waxman

Mark Weston juggles clubs while taking the unicycle for a spin.

Spotlight on UVic's juggling club

A dance of hands

by Dena vanDalfsen

Juggling. What comes to mind when you here the word?

For me it's colourful clowns that show up at little kids' birthday parties and street fairs in the summer.

What kind of people juggle? Once again a stereotype pops into my mind: someone who is outgoing, energetic, friendly, and a little weird.

With these preconceptions in mind, I headed down to the squash courts in McKinnon Gym last Thursday evening.

Typically, my preconceptions were a little off and all the stereotypes were shattered when I ducked into the door of squash court number five.

Six very normal-looking people were spread out in the little room, CFUV was playing on the radio, and in their socks, some people were juggling balls in differing numbers while others were practicing with clubs and diabolos. (I didn't find out the technical names until later).

"When you tell people you juggle, they automatically assume the three ball thing," said Ryan Mellors, a member of the UVic club for the last year. "There are a lot of other things involved."

As I sat on the floor, taking notes and forming questions, the music that CFUV played was punctuated by the loud sound of clubs and balls banging to the wood floor as jugglers faltered.

I watched one member practice by bouncing balls off the wall. Another guy had a fairly large white ball and was practicing rolling it up his arm and around his wrists. (More difficult than it sounds, I learned later that this is called contact juggling.)

Mellors, the club's contact juggling enthusiast describes the discipline as "the reduction of juggling to its basic form – object manipulation."

Others were learning to juggle clubs or, having mastered juggling three balls, were upping the difficulty by practicing with four or five. A girl was practicing how to roll a hat from her extended hand down her arm and onto her head. I even was treated to a demonstration involving a unicycle.

Like Mellors said, juggling is a lot more than three balls. Two members of the club have six batons and standing about four feet apart juggling them back and forth. "Juggling can be either a very individual thing, or it can be a huge group playing and having fun. Communal juggling is great," said Kirsten Larmon, president of the UVic juggling club.

What struck me as I observed the practice was the amazing sense of community the club showed, especially because it is mostly an individualized past time. Some members of the club were obviously more advanced than others, but took time out to share their experience and knowledge with newer members of the club.

Like any sport, juggling has it's own lingo. Tricks have fancy names like Mill's Mess and Rubenstine's Revenge. Even the equipment is not as straight forward as it may seem.

The juggling club has quite a bit of equipment. As well as juggling balls, in varied styles, sizes and colours, the club also has diablolos, clubs, hats, scarves, cigar boxes and a unicycle.

A diabolo (Italian for devil), is a long string with sticks tied on either end for handles. A two-ended rubber top is placed on the string and rolled along or thrown up in the air or caught again. (You really have to see it to understand.)

A club is basically a skinny bowling pin with a handle on the end.

How does one pick up the juggling habit? Mellors learned from the "weird kid" at his high school.

"My cousin taught me one year at Christmas," said Larmon. "I spent months in my basement practicing. It's cool because you can do it and other people can't."

"The coolest story is Ramon's," said Mellors. "He learned to juggle with rocks while he was waiting for a bus in Barcelona."

Juggling is fun, but like any sport, it takes a lot of practice. Every club member has a story about the hours it takes to first learn the skill and then all the successive hours needed to develop that skill and move on to more difficult tricks.

Why is it harder to juggle when you add more balls? "Every time you add a ball you have to toss them higher and faster with more accuracy," said Mellors.

"With three balls I feel like I could go forever but with four I get tired faster," said Larmon. "Some people can spend years trying to juggle five balls and never get beyond that. It's all about rhythm."

The juggling club has about 80 members on paper, but gets an average of about 10 members to practices on Monday and Thursday nights. "There are always one or two new people," said Mellors.

"We also get people wandering by who stop to see what's going on," said Kirsten Larmon.

Ryan also said that some downtown buskers sometimes come to visit but are inconsistent because they don't always have the bus fare to get to the university.

While the juggling club doesn't organize regular activities, seven members did attend the Portland Juggling Festival in October and were treated to a weekend of performances from people all over the world, including members of the Cirque de Soleil as well as workshops and a trade show where numerous booths were set up to sell juggling equipment.

"There was a lot of contact juggling, which was neat for me because you don't see that around here," said Mellors. "It was really exciting."

"I came out with a better idea of how to do workshops," said Larmon, who is planning to host some juggling workshops in the spring.

Both Mellors and Larmon agreed that the weekend was intense but really beneficial. "We completely immersed in juggling for 12 hours a day," said Larmon.

While the club received some funds for the trip they had to fundraise and spend some of their own money to make the trip. The club is planning a bake sale sometime in the future, where they will be selling hand-made juggling balls.

Also look out for the juggling club downtown in the spring. "We'd like to go busking downtown when it gets a little warmer out," said Larmon.

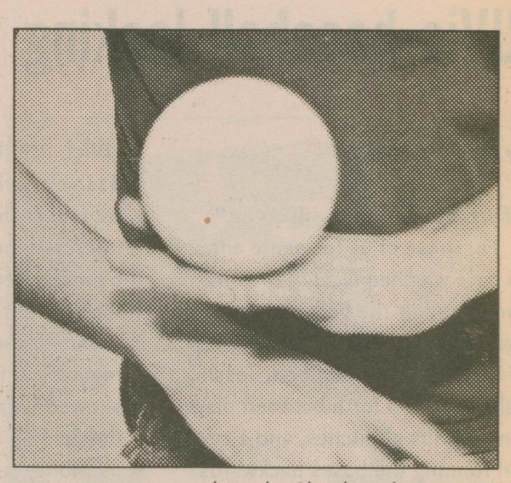

photo by Shoshanah Waxman

Ryan Mellors practises contact juggling.

> Juggling can be either a very individual thing, or it can be a huge group playing and having fun.
>
> *Kirsten Larmon*

Your number is up!

(Student Number, that is...)

Student Appreciation Day

Wednesday November 1st 8:30am-7:00pm

20% Off Almost Everything*

When you show us your valid UVic Student Card

*Does not include textbooks, special orders, calculators, magazines, photo finishing, stamps or Finnerty's

Enter to Win!

Grand Prize - $500.00 Textbook Gift Certificate
2nd Prize - $150.00 Textbook Gift Certificate
3rd Prize - $50.00 School Supplies Gift Certificate

UVic Bookstore

web.uvic.ca/bookstore
721-8320

Olympic Sized Billiards!

The GSS has received the generous donation of a very large mint-condition regulation snooker/billiards table.

- It's HUGE! *Actual size: 12 ft.x 6 ft.(3.75m x 1.87m)*
- Billiard/snooker balls at the bar for sign-out.
- Games just $1.00 with unlimited playtime!

Vincent Van Gogh, "The Night Cafe", 1888

The Foggy Scholar Cafe

At the Grad Centre
Fully licensed Cafe & Lounge
• Fireplace • Pool table • Big-screen TV
Mon. to Thurs. 11:00 am - 9:00 pm /Fridays: 11:00 am - 10:00 pm

ON CAMPUS

The **AGM for the UVic Medieval Club** will be held **Mon. Nov. 6** in the clubs and course union room in the basement of the SUB (B023).

University of Victoria Orchestra performs in the University Centre Farquar Auditorium. **Fri. Oct. 27** at 8 p.m. Tickets: $12/$8 students & seniors. Call the School of Music at 721-7903.

Don't know where to go with your problem? See the UVSS Ombudsperson. SUB B205. Call 721-8357 or e-mail ombuddy@uvic.ca

"Ring-Out" the week with Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship every Friday night! Everyone is welcome to join us for Praise, Worship, Singing, Prayer, Fellowship, and Teaching! Have a Bible? Bring it! See you Friday nights for Ring-Out in CleC 112 at 7:30 p.m.

OFF CAMPUS

Café Philosophy: Taking public philosophy to a new level. Next topic: Sustainability. What do we owe the future? How sustainable is society? Is the Earth in jeopardy? **Wed. Nov. 1** at 7:30 p.m. at Torrefazione Italia (1234 Government St), Cover $4/$3 for students. **"Food for Thought"** pre-session starts at 6:30 p.m. For more information call Michael Picard, Ph.D., at 385-4646 or e-mail pyro@philosophy-shop.com

Workshop dealing with death and how to help the dying. **Oct. 27-29**. $195. Call 480-0562.

VOLUNTEERS

Best Buddies: volunteer with the developmentally disabled. For more information call Phyllis at 381-0113.

Enriching our community through friendship! Community Connections reaches out to persons who have a developmental disability, fosters friendship, community inclusion and shared fun! Consider spending a few hours each week as a mentor and friend. Find out how you can make a difference! Call Citizen Advocacy today at 598-6786.

Victoria Meals on Wheels needs volunteer drivers and helpers immediately to deliver meals throughout the Greater Victoria area. By giving as little as two hours a week you can make a difference to the lives of those who need this service. Orientation provided. Please call 385-5919.

TUTORS

English/Philosophy. Essay critique, proofreading, assignment discussion, etc. Enjoy learning but need a little assistance to fulfill your potential? I can help. Call Janet at 595-8438.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fernwood Hallowe'en howl! Sun. Oct. 29 from 1-3 p.m. at the Fernwood Community Centre (1240 Gladstone Ave.). Admission is $2/child. **Be there, if you dare!**

Why are Victorians going to Cuba? Despite negative reports about Cuba, a group of local residents are determined to build friendship with that country. Meet for videos, music and information at 1923 Fernwood on **Sun. Oct. 29** at 7:30 p.m. Free. Info 595-3991 or 743-2994.

United Way open stage fundraiser. Grad Students' Lounge, Ida and George Halpern building. **Thurs. Nov. 23**, 7-10:30 p.m. Donations gratefully received. Everyone welcome. Supported by UVic's Food Services. Sound system provided – bring your instrument and talent.

Circus! exhibition at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. Features a selection of video and graphic works exploring the theme of the circus throughout history. Includes works by Picasso, Chagall and Dame Laura Knight. Runs **Oct. 19-March 4**.

Canada's largest on-line love shop. To help fulfill all you needs and fantasies, visit www.entimate.com

Records Services wants your "Mailing Address." For information and instructions check your address on Webview (www.uvic.ca/reco) before **Dec. 15**.

Pottery Classes available. Six 2.5 hour classes, $140 + GST. Call 383-5446 for more details.

FOR SALE

Year 2000 Crono 50cc scooters. 150mpg under warranty. $1,095.00. Cycle Victoria Rentals. 747 Douglas St. 885-2453.

Motorcycle and scooter: winterizing packages, dry storage, service and repair. Low winter rates. Cycle Victoria Rentals. 747 Douglas St. 885-2453.

1989 red Chevy Sprint. $1800 OBO. Excellent running condition, economical and reliable. Call 592-3380.

HELP WANTED

Travel – teach English. 5 day/40 hr **(Nov. 15-19)** TESOL teacher cert. course (or by correspondence). 1000s of jobs available NOW. Free info pack, toll free 1-888-270-2941.

HEY YOU

Christa from Eng 402 and 474: I'd like *Treasure Island* back please! Stacey 385-4999.

Free candy! Trick or treat at Subtext on Hallowe'en in your costume for yummy treats.

Hey You! "People, people, we are far from screweed here."

Eris, in her **unrivaled perfection**, has forseen a higher purpose for all. Eat, drink and be merry, but do not sell your soul to IKEA, no matter how many picture frames you can buy for $2.95.

O Blonde Bombshell Babaloo, you know just what to do, you wiggle with a giggle that lovely tush-a-roo. Shawna Piranha, you gorgeous goddess you! Be my sweetie, love, you-know-who. P.S. It was definately NOT your sister who sent this in! Really!

Happy 'b' day DGB, Mike Cox & any other October babies.

Chicken Girl: sorry for my off-key and off-taste post-Zubot song. I was oblivious to its impact at the time. Apologetically, a poopy, sheepish **goat-boy**.

To the toque-wearing fuck at Thursdays last week. I wish I had had that rotten potato to shove in your 'Rob, you're my friend' mouth.

BILLBOARD RATES	
students & clubs	$2/issue
non-students	$2/line
businesses	$5.50/3 lines
hey you!	$1/issue

All religious organizations and clubs advertising on the billboards page must adhere to the following statement:
"Everyone is welcome. We oppose discrimination on the basis of race, gender and sexuality."

new & used mac computers ▲ printers
network ▲ parts ▲ software ▲ service
ReStart
Authorized Dealer
Authorized Service Provider
2618 bridge street
995.3020
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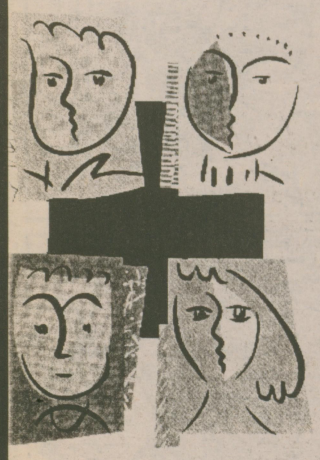
The JET Programme
The Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme



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PUB

Daily specials

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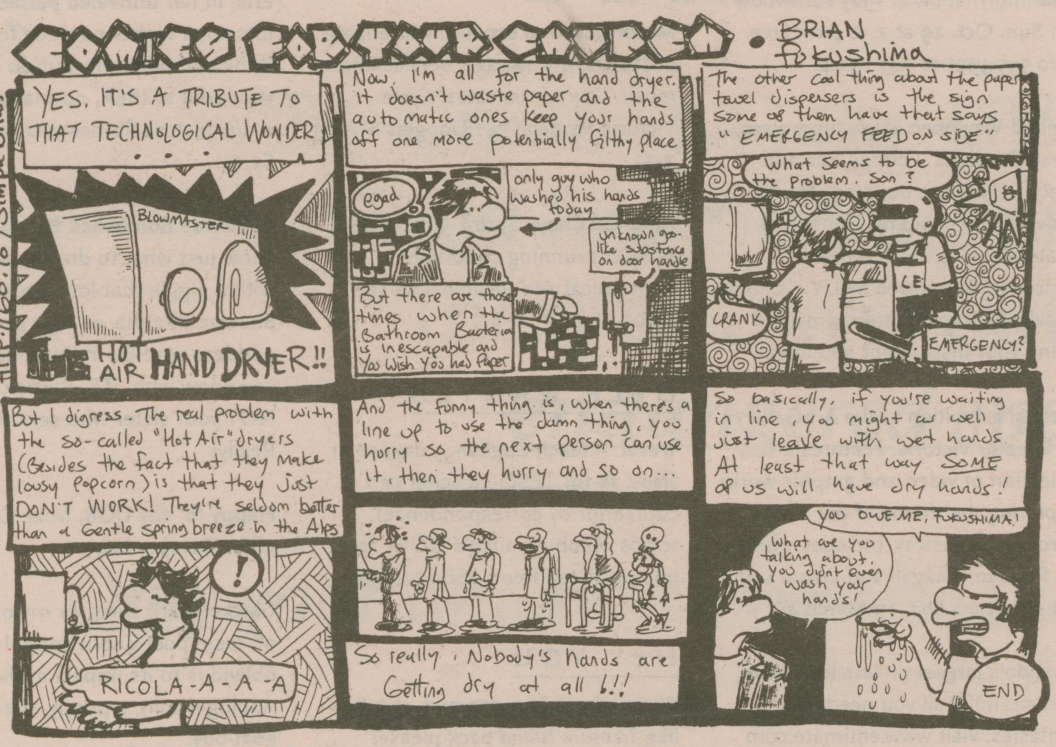
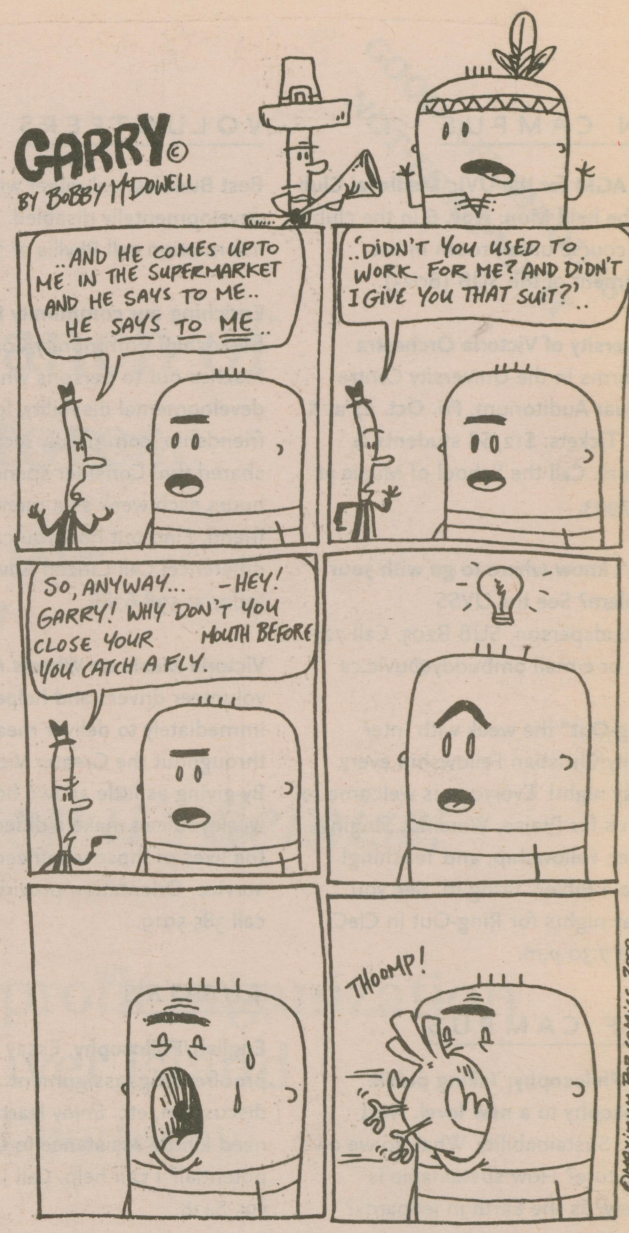
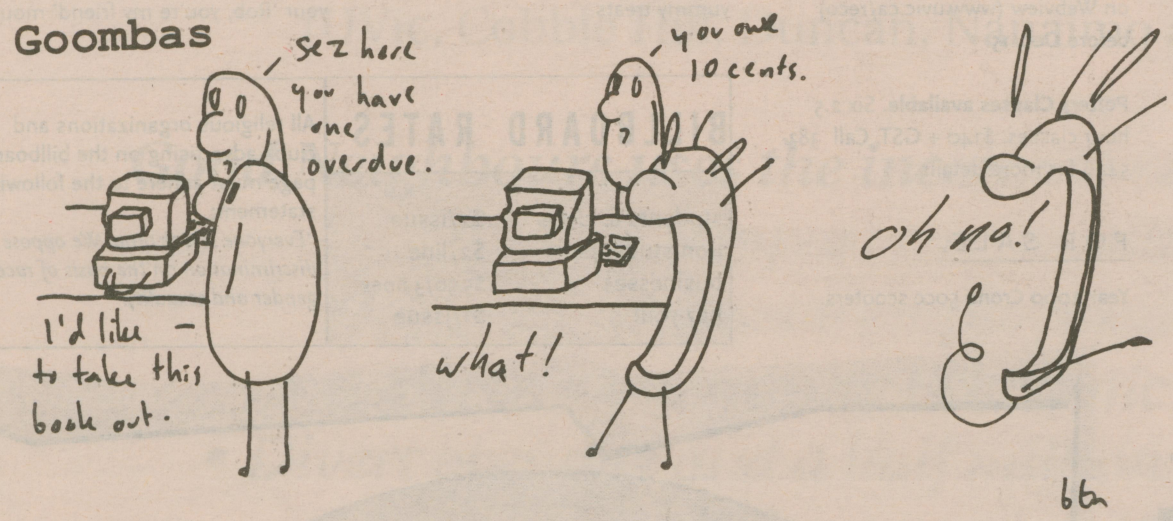
• Tuesday buy one burger and get the next one 1/2 price
• Wednesday - 35¢ Prawns
•Thursdays - Pasta Night
• Friday - Steak Night
• Saturday - buy 1 appy and get the next for 1/2 price
• Sunday Brunch 11-2pm

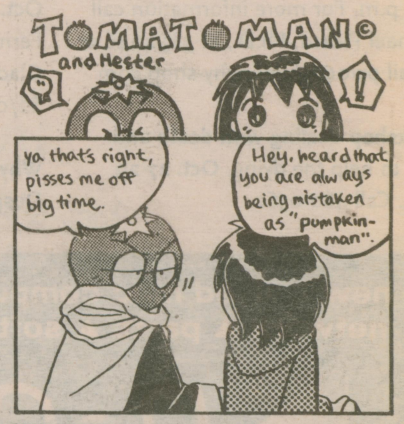
"Just down the hill in Cadboro Bay"

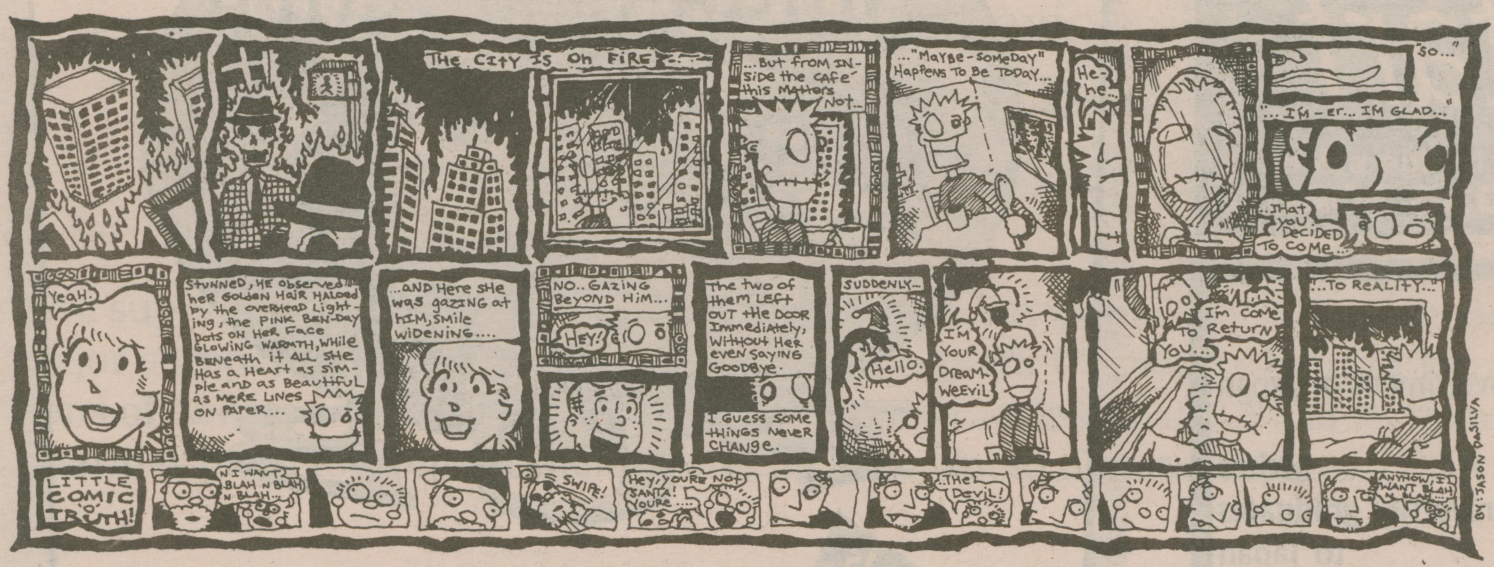
Cold Beer off-sales 'til 8pm 7 days a week

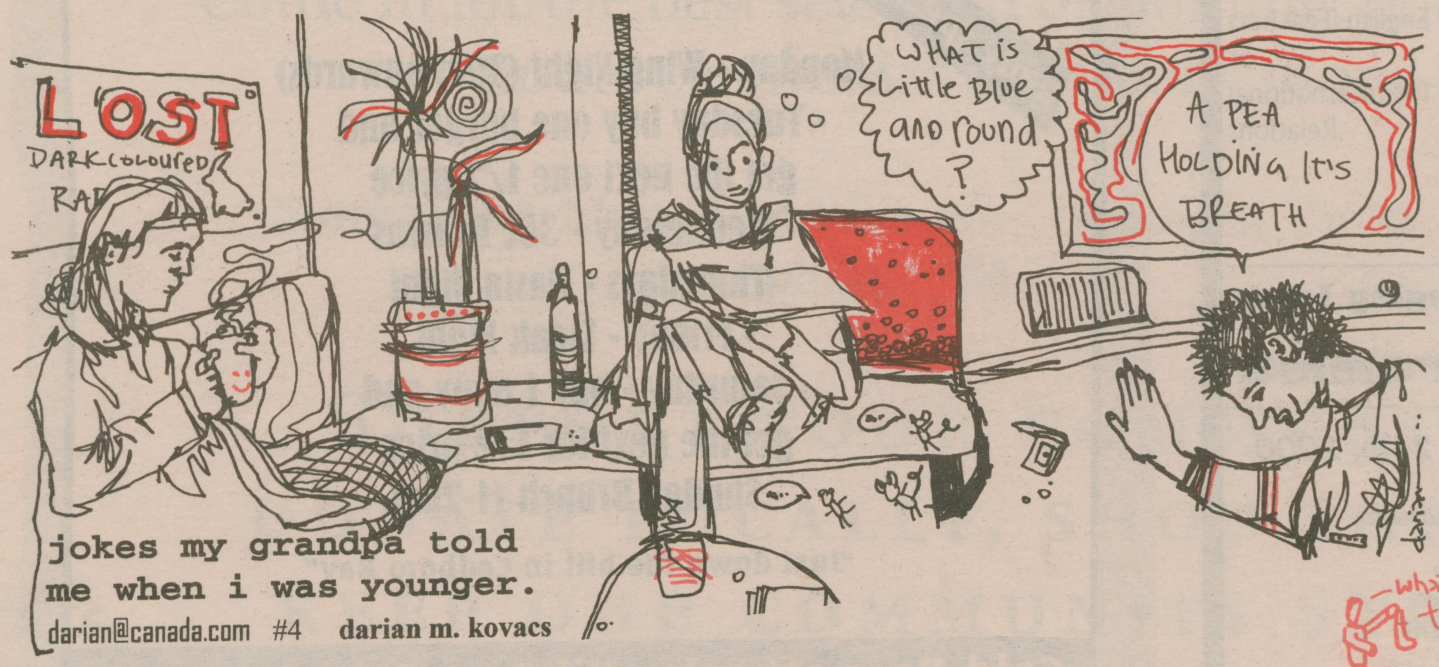
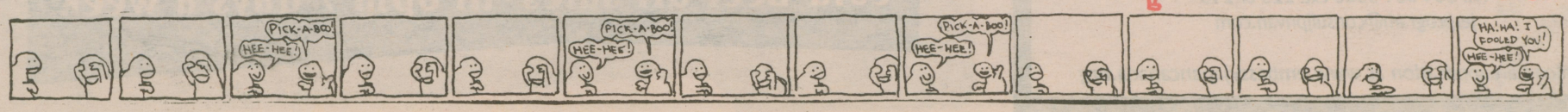

COMICS FOR YOUR CHURCH
BRIAN fukushima
http://i.Go.To/SimpleBrian
YES, IT'S A TRIBUTE TO THAT TECHNOLOGICAL WONDER
BLOWMASTER
THE HOT AIR HAND DRYER!!
But I digress. The real problem with the so-called "Hot Air" dryers (Besides the fact that they make lousy popcorn) is that they just DON'T WORK! They're seldom better than a Gentle spring breeze in the Alps
RICOLA-A-A-A
Now, I'm all for the hand dryer. It doesn't waste paper and the automatic ones keep your hands off one more potentially filthy place
egad
only guy who washed his hands today
unknown gel-like substance on door handle
But there are those times when the Bathroom Bacteria is inescapable and You wish You had Paper
And the funny thing is, when there's a line up to use the damn thing, you hurry so the next person can use it, then they hurry and so on...
So really, Nobody's hands are Getting dry at all !!!
The other cool thing about the paper towel dispensers is the sign some of them have that says "EMERGENCY FEED ON SIDE"
What seems to be the problem, Son?
CRANK
EMERGENCY?
So basically, if you're waiting in line, you might as well just leave with wet hands At least that way SOME of us will have dry hands!
YOU OWE ME, FUKUSHIMA!
What are you talking about, You didn't even wash your hands!
END


GARRY©
BY BOBBY MCDOWELL
..AND HE COMES UPTO ME IN THE SUPERMARKET AND HE SAYS TO ME.. HE SAYS TO ME..
..DIDN'T YOU USED TO WORK FOR ME? AND DIDN'T I GIVE YOU THAT SUIT?'..
SO, ANYWAY... -HEY! GARRY! WHY DON'T YOU CLOSE YOUR MOUTH BEFORE YOU CATCH A FLY.
THOOMP!
©MAXIMUM BOB COMICS 2000






THE CITY IS On FIRE
...But FROM INSIDE the CAFE this Matters Not...
..."MAYBE-SOMEDAY" Happens To Be TODAY...
He he...
"SO..."
... IM-ER... IM GLAD...
...THAT YOU DECIDED TO COME...
Yeah
STUNNED, HE observed her GOLDEN HAIR HALOED by the overhead Lighting; the PINK BEN-DAY DOTS ON HER Face GLOWING WARMTH, While BENEATH IT ALL she Has a Heart as SIMple and as Beautiful as MERE LINES ON PAPER...
...AND Here she was gazing at him, Smile WIDENING....
NO.. GAZING Beyond HIM...
Hey!
The two of them LEFT but the DOOR Immediately, WITHOUT Her even saying Goodbye.
I Guess SOME THINGS Never CHANGE.
SUDDENLY-
Hello
I'M YOUR Dream-WEEVIL
I'm COME To Return YOU...
...TO REALITY...
LITTLE COMIC OF TRUTH!
BY: JASON PASILVA


LOST
DARK-COLOURED
WHAT is Little Blue and round?
A PEA HOLDING It's BREATH
jokes my grandpa told me when i was younger.
darian@canada.com #4 darian m. kovacs
what's this?

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